



Perception of Women's Political Leadership in Tunisia

February 22 - 25, 2015

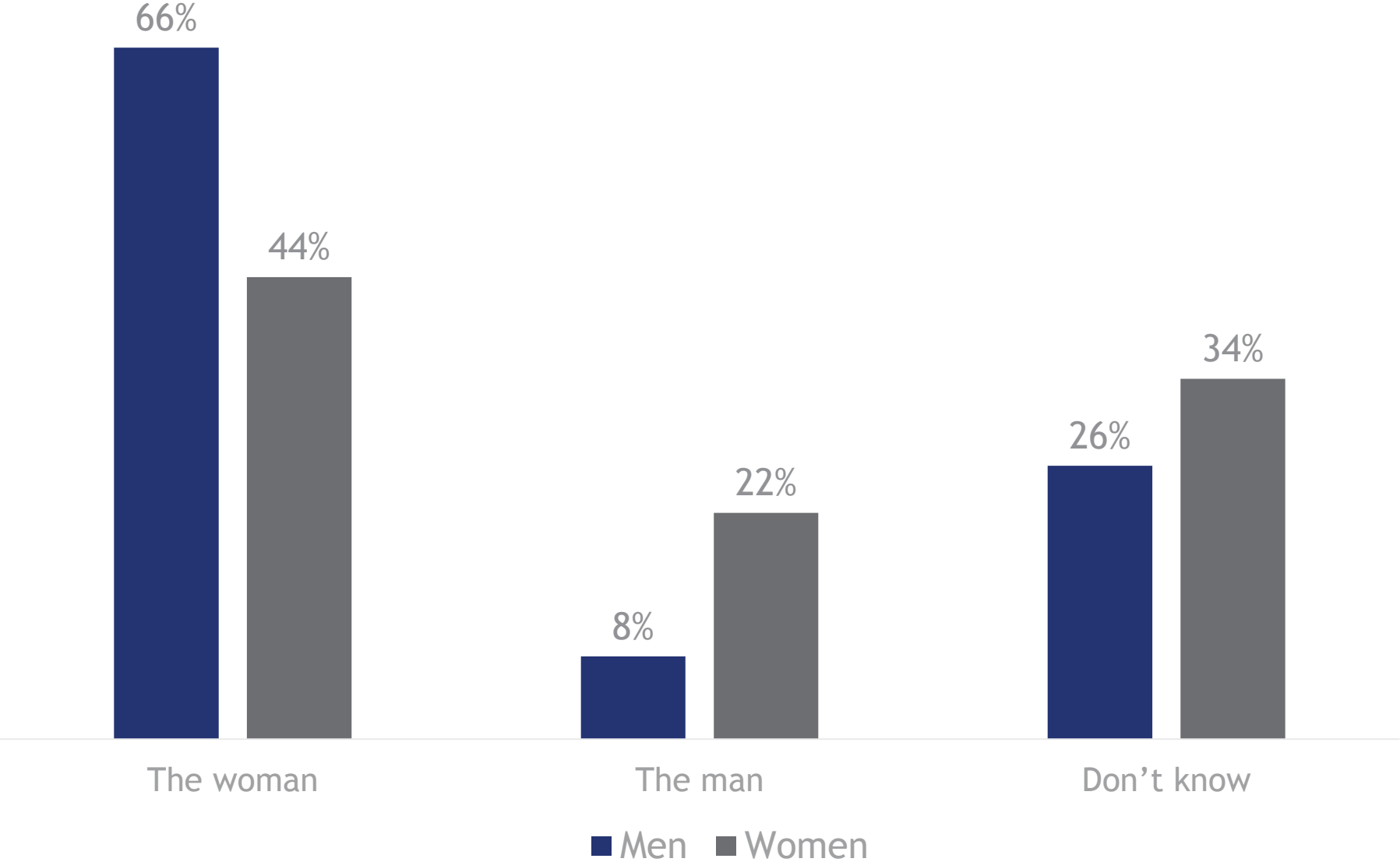
Detailed Methodology

- The national survey was conducted from February 22 - 25, 2015.
- Research was conducted by [Arab World for Research and Development](#) (AWRAD) and [Elka Consulting](#).
- Sample size: 1,138
- The quantitative survey was conducted by 30 researchers using face-to-face interviews.
- The sample was based on a stratified random probability sample using a framework built from the 2014 National Population Census. The sample was distributed into geographical provinces according to their population (based on the census) taking into account population growth. This framework was verified through comparisons with AWRAD's regular polling in Tunisia.
- A Kish Grid was used to select individual respondents in the same house in order for the sample to be representative.
- Data collection was done via paper questionnaires. which allowed the average face-to-face interview to last 12 minutes in duration.
- The response rate in the survey was 73 percent. In counting for non-response rate, the net number of interviews was 1,138.
- Margin of error: Plus or minus three percent.
- In addition to the quantitative survey, two focus groups were organized on February 22, 2015. The first focus group targeted youth aged 18-30; five females and three males participated. The second focus group targeted women aged 30-55, and 10 women participated.
- Research was sponsored by the [International Republican Institute's Arab Women's Leadership Institute](#) through funding from the [National Endowment for Democracy](#).
- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

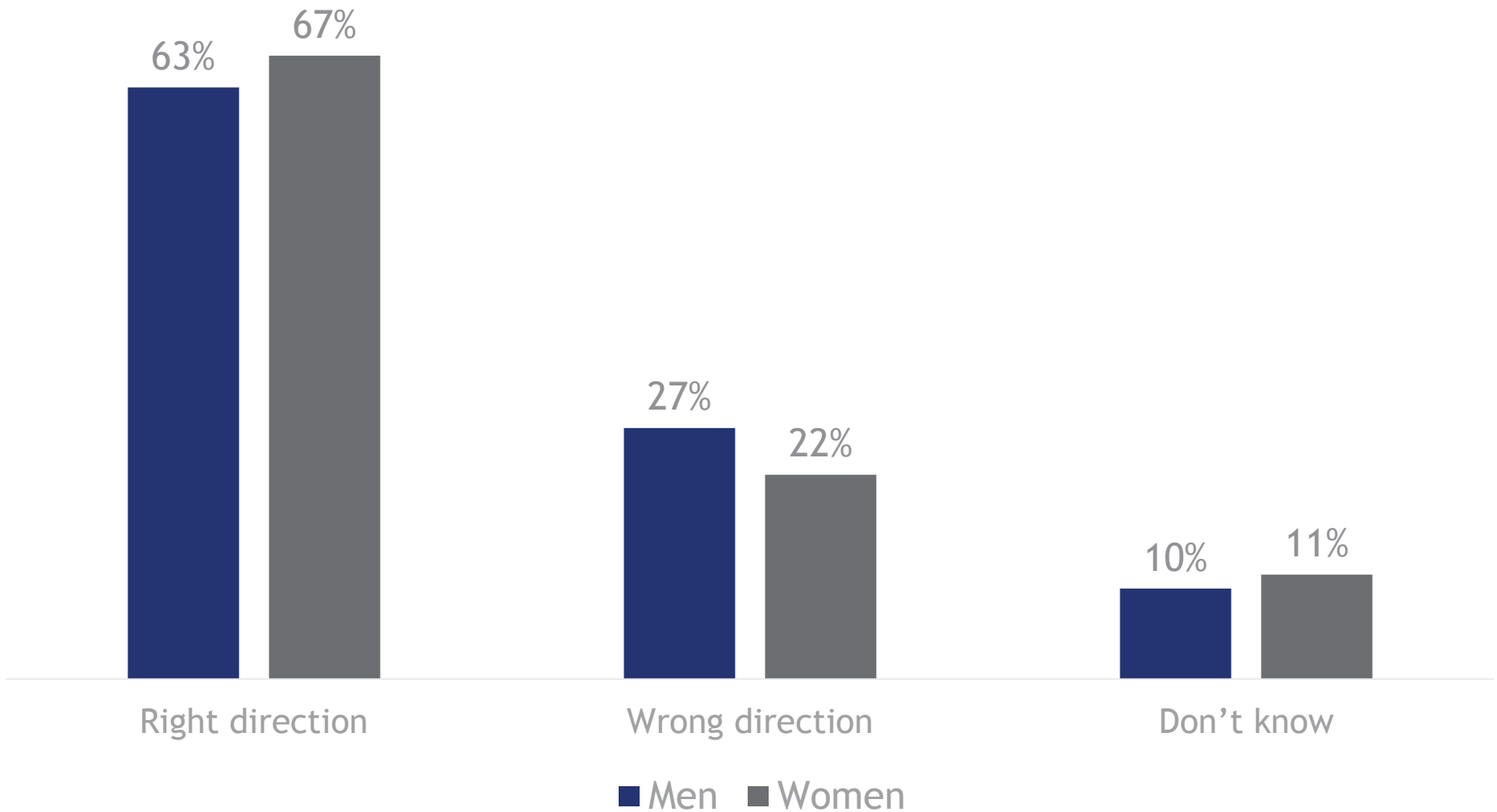


Support for Women Candidates Increases, Need for Improvement Remains

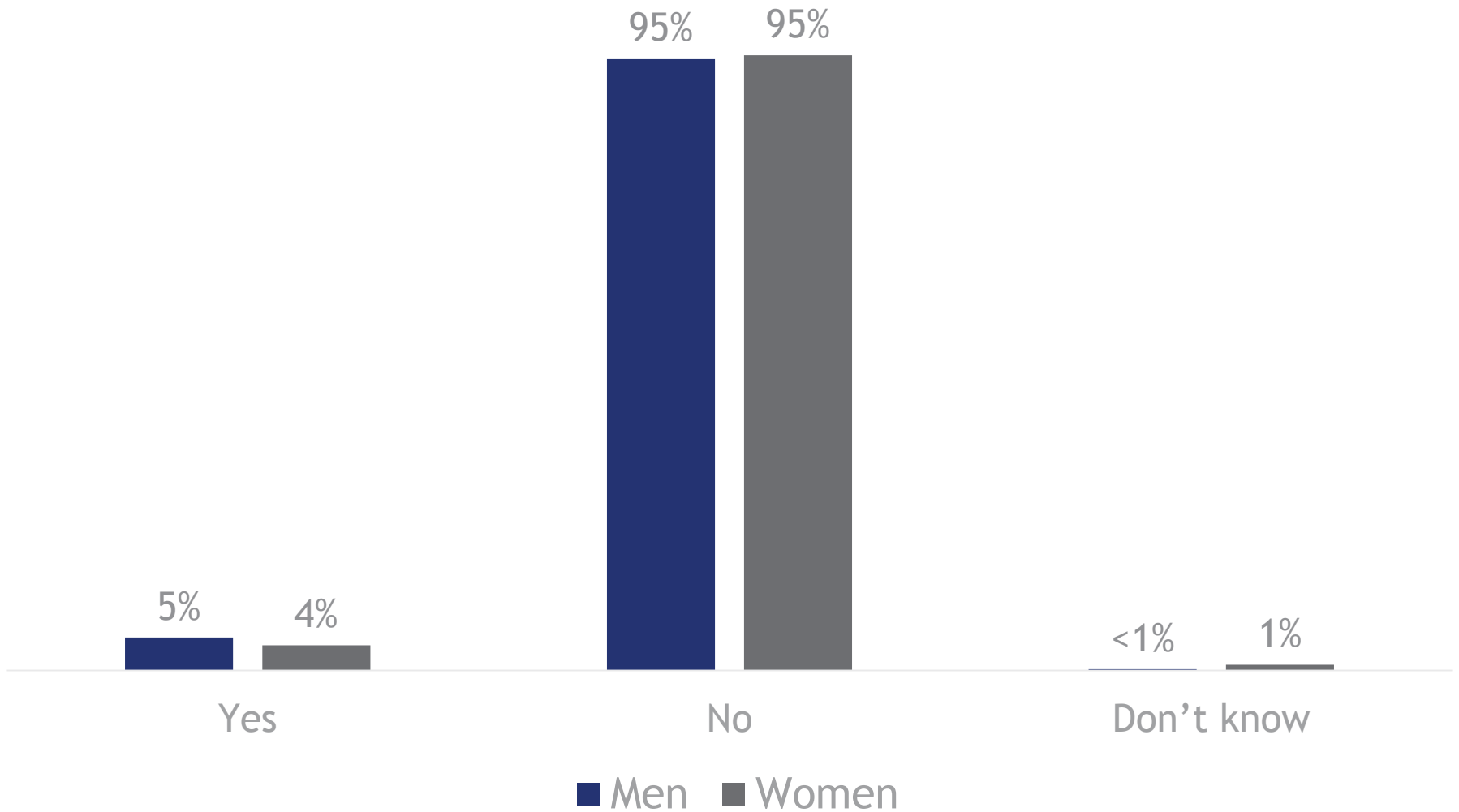
If two equally-qualified candidates, one man and one woman, are running for parliamentary elections, who would you vote for?



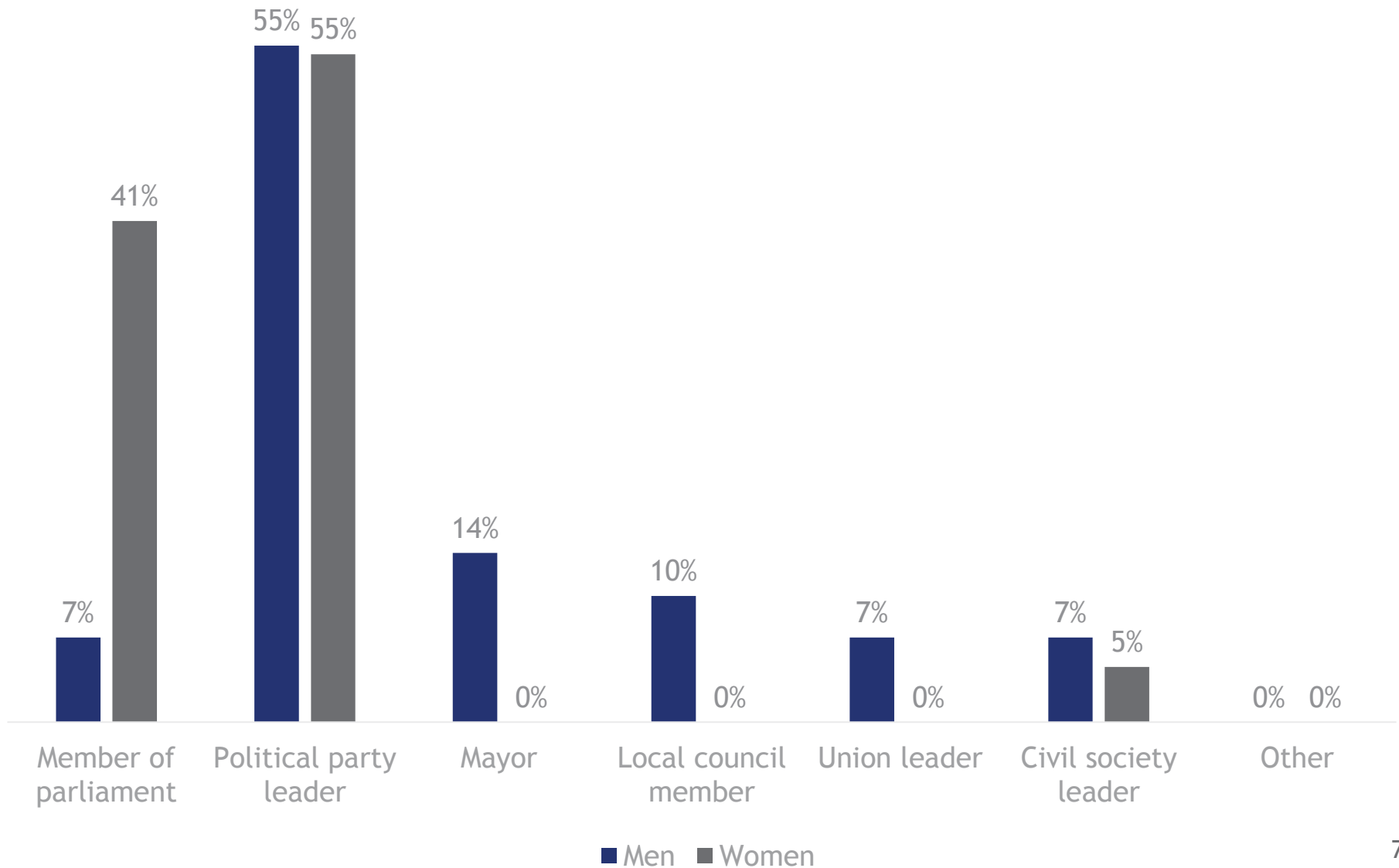
Since the 2011 revolution, do you believe things are moving in the right direction or wrong direction for women's political participation in Tunisia?



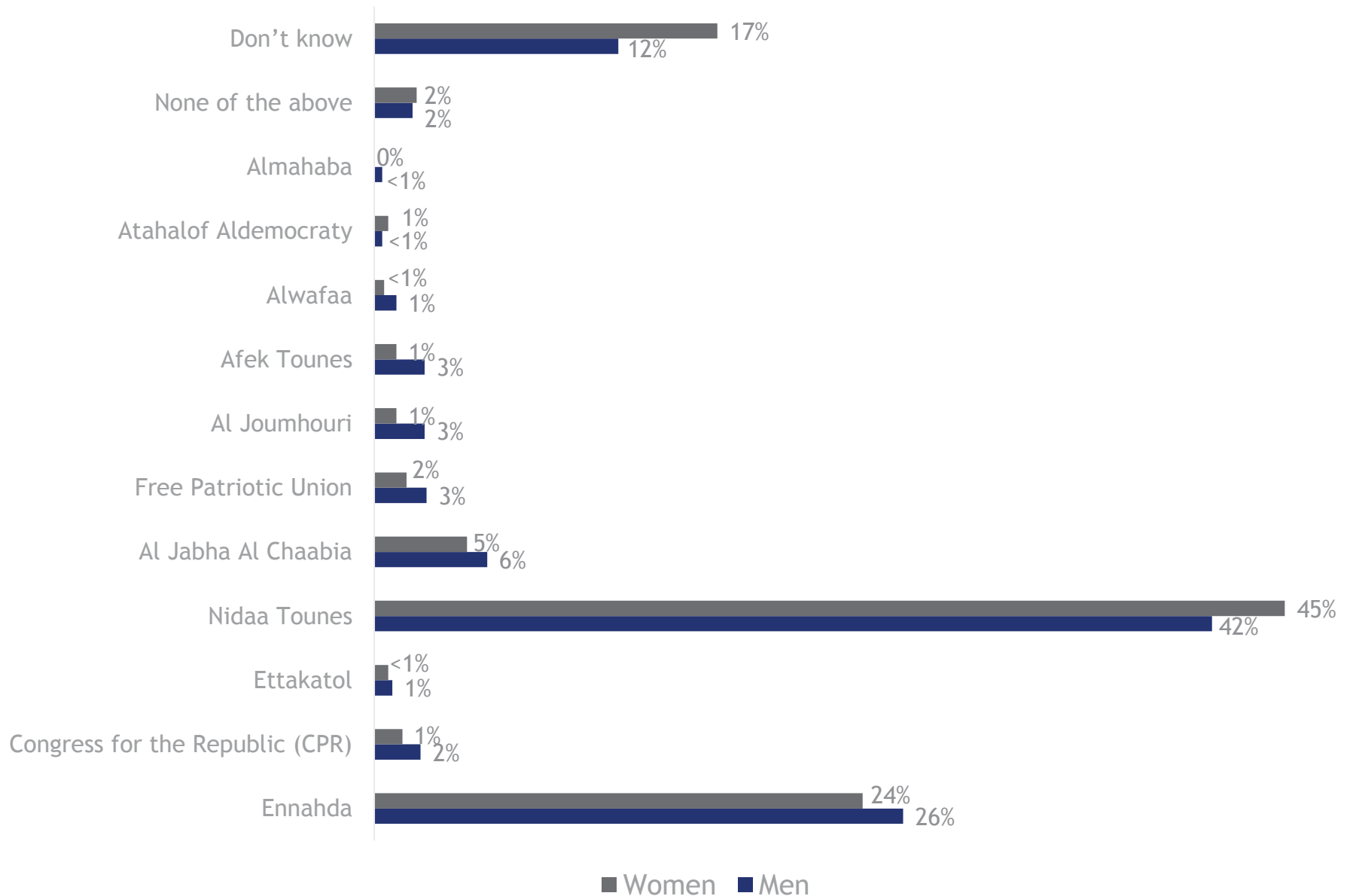
Have you ever voted for a woman for elected office?



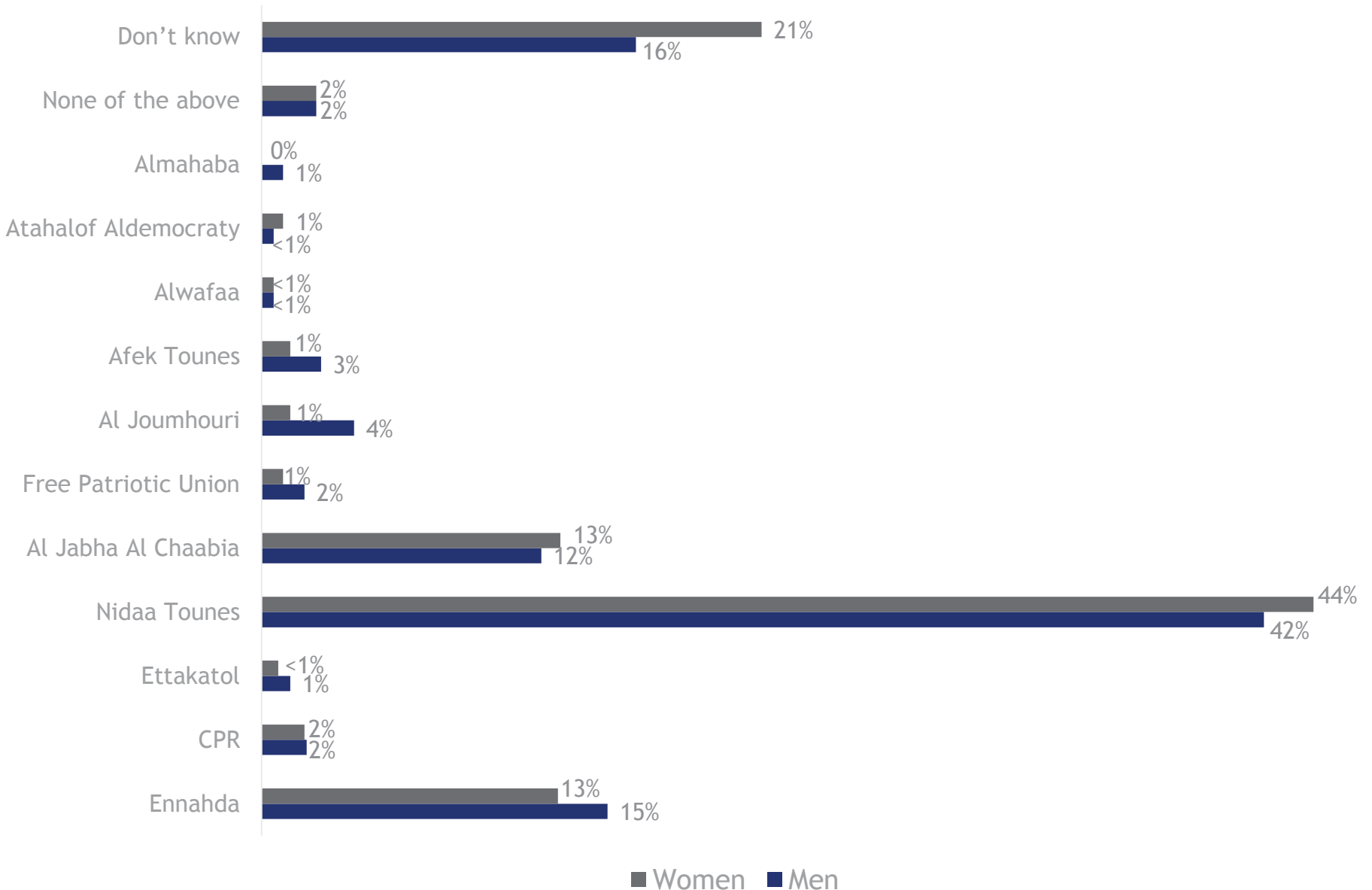
If yes, for what position? (n=51)



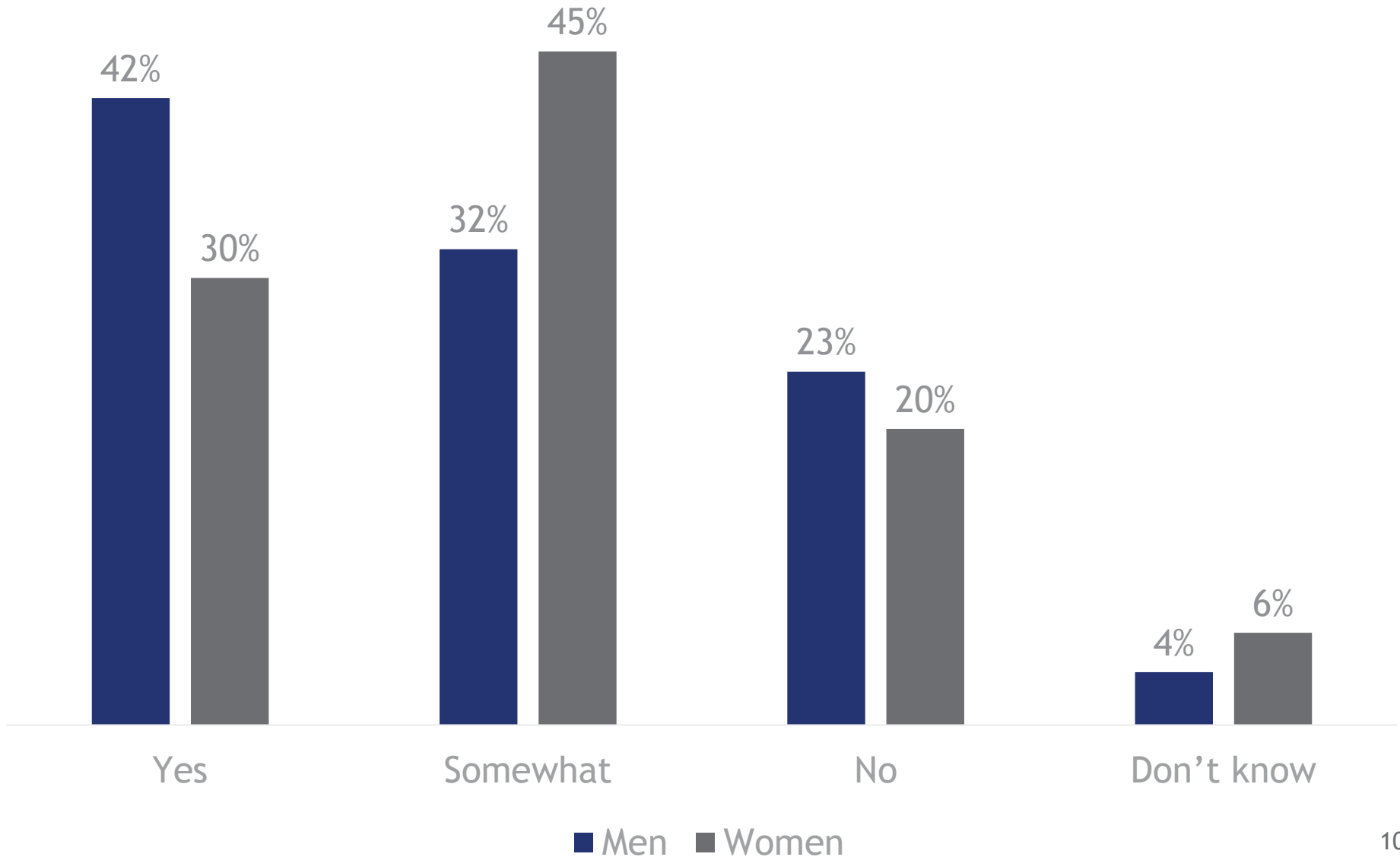
Which political party would you say has the highest participation of women?



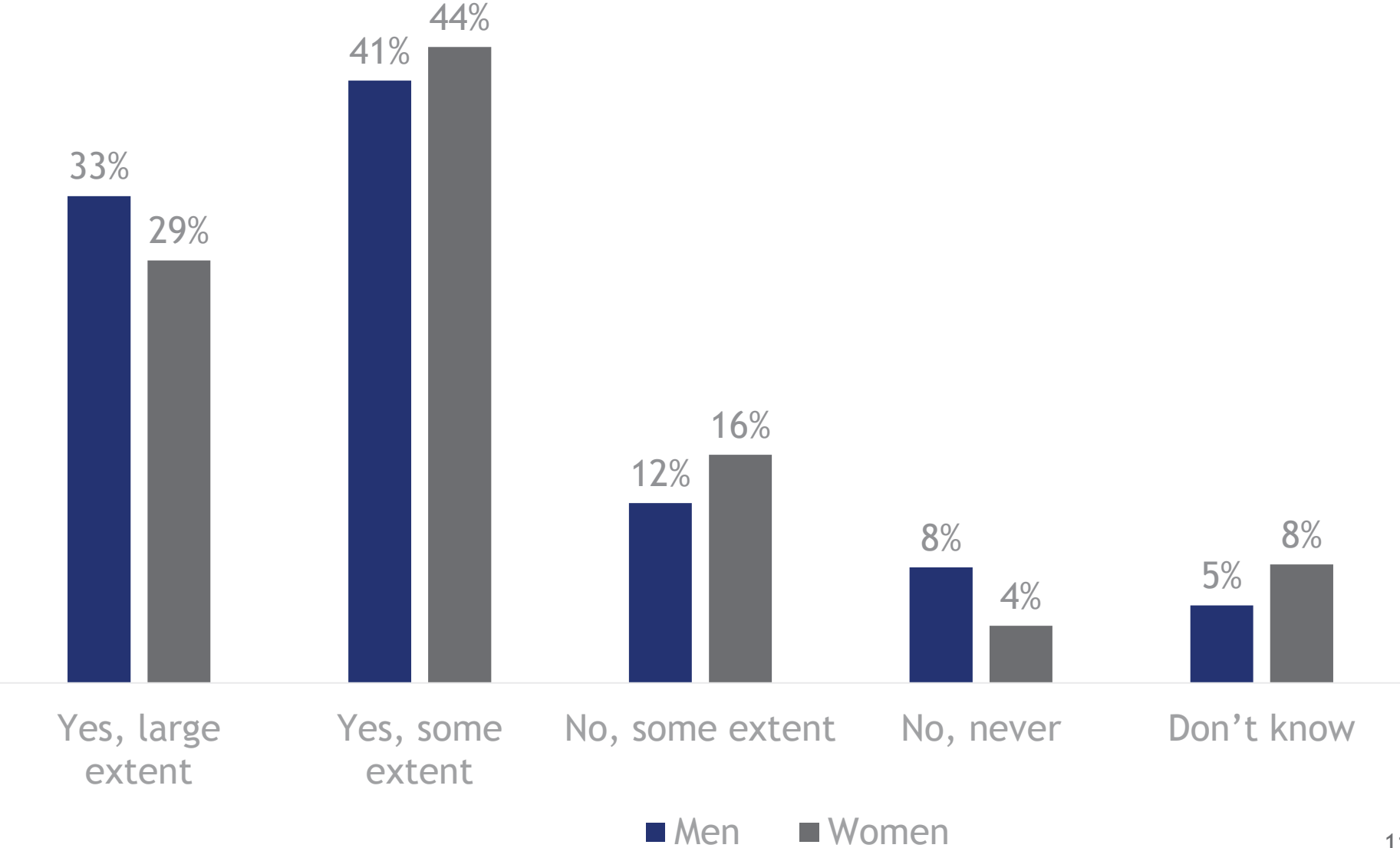
Which political party has the strongest platform for women's issues?



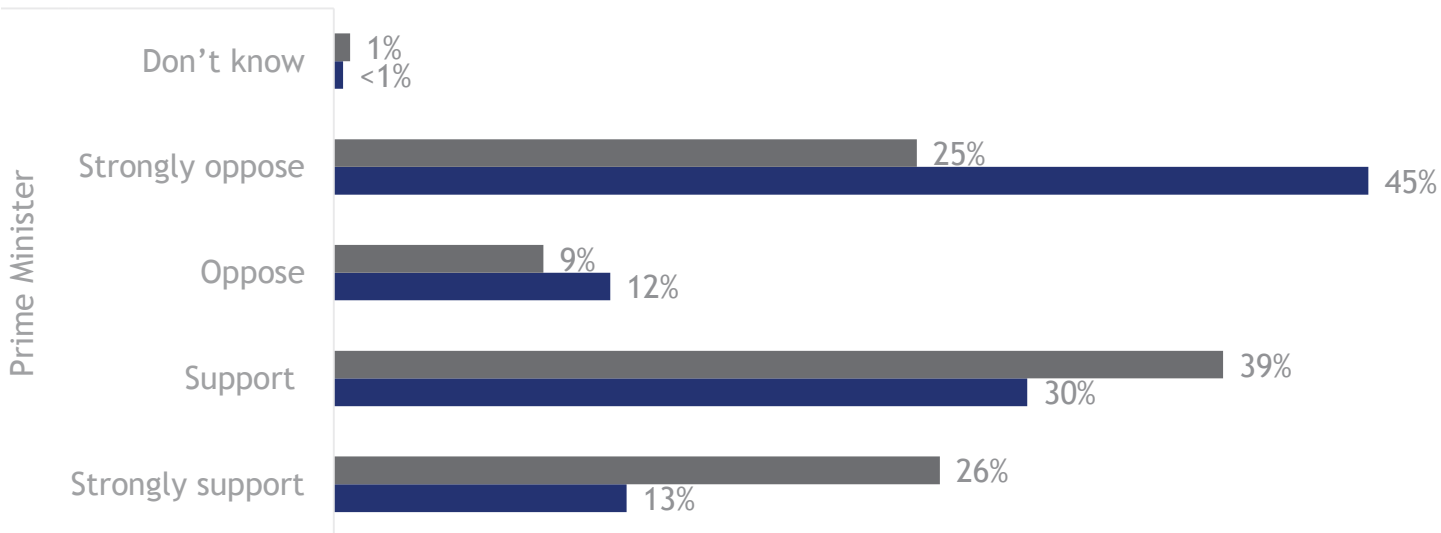
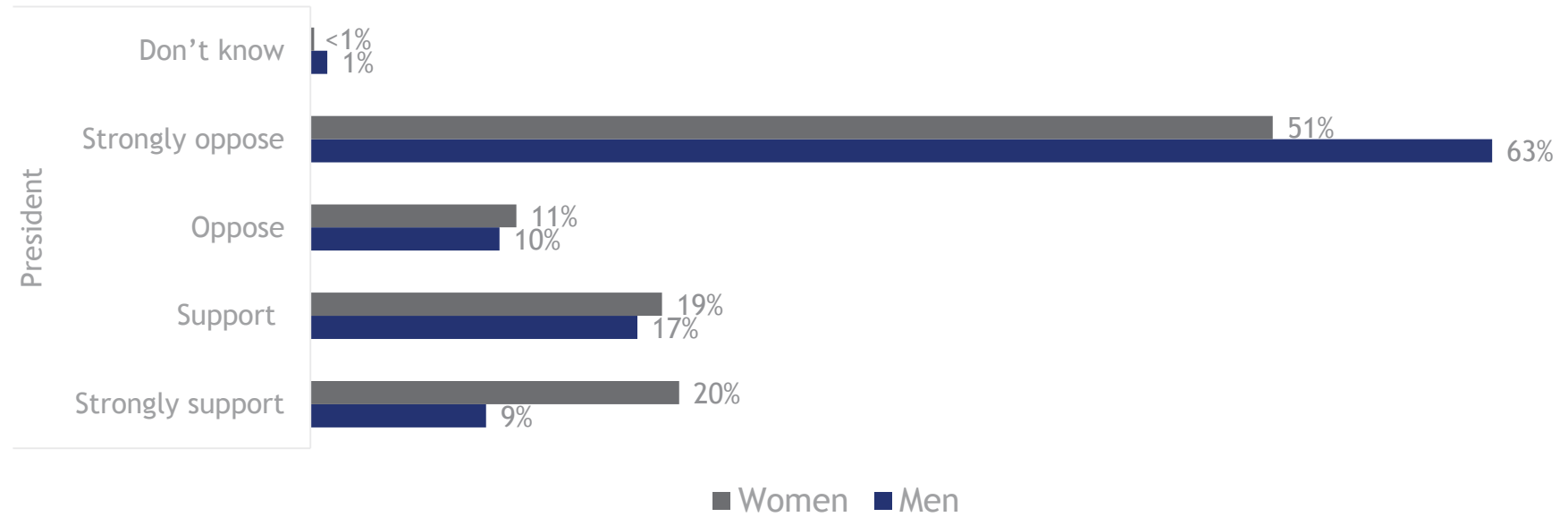
Do you believe women are fairly represented in the newly-elected government?



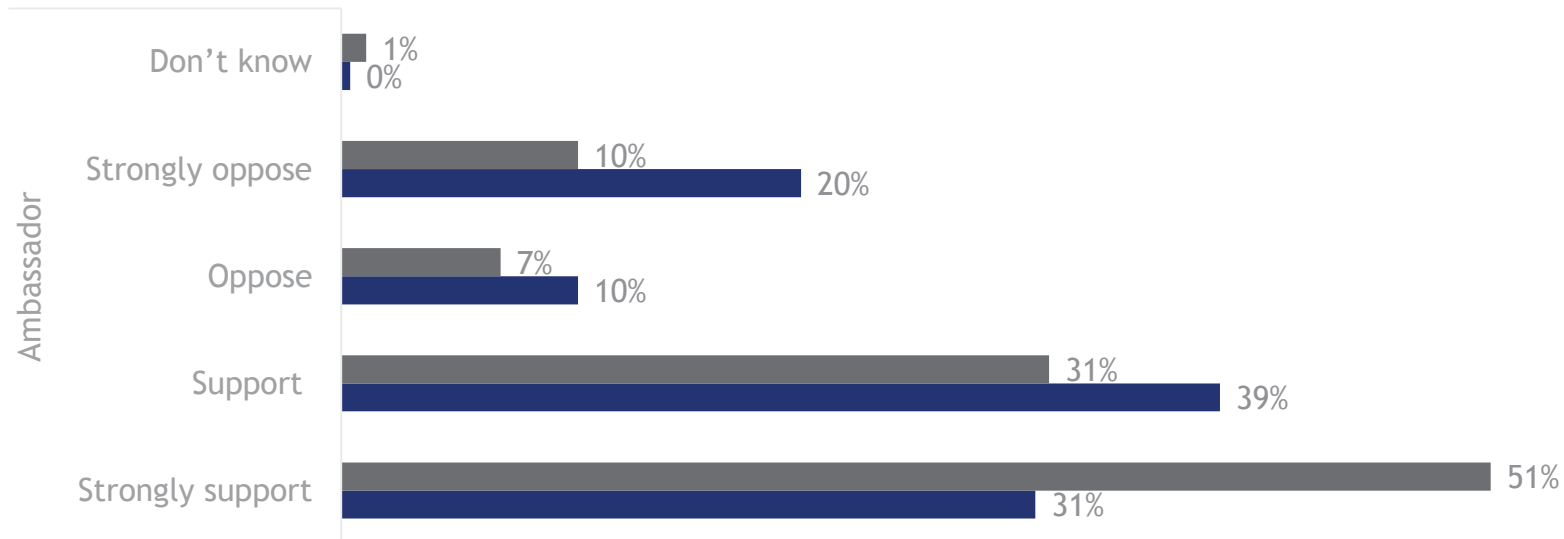
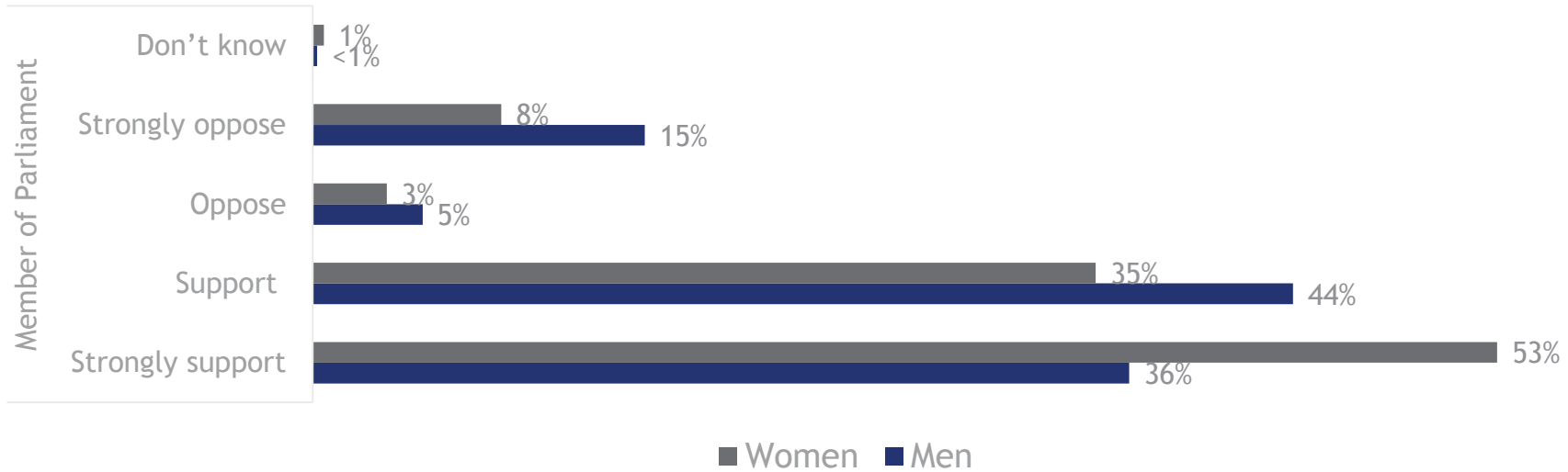
To what extent do you feel that women members of parliament will be able to be effective in parliament?



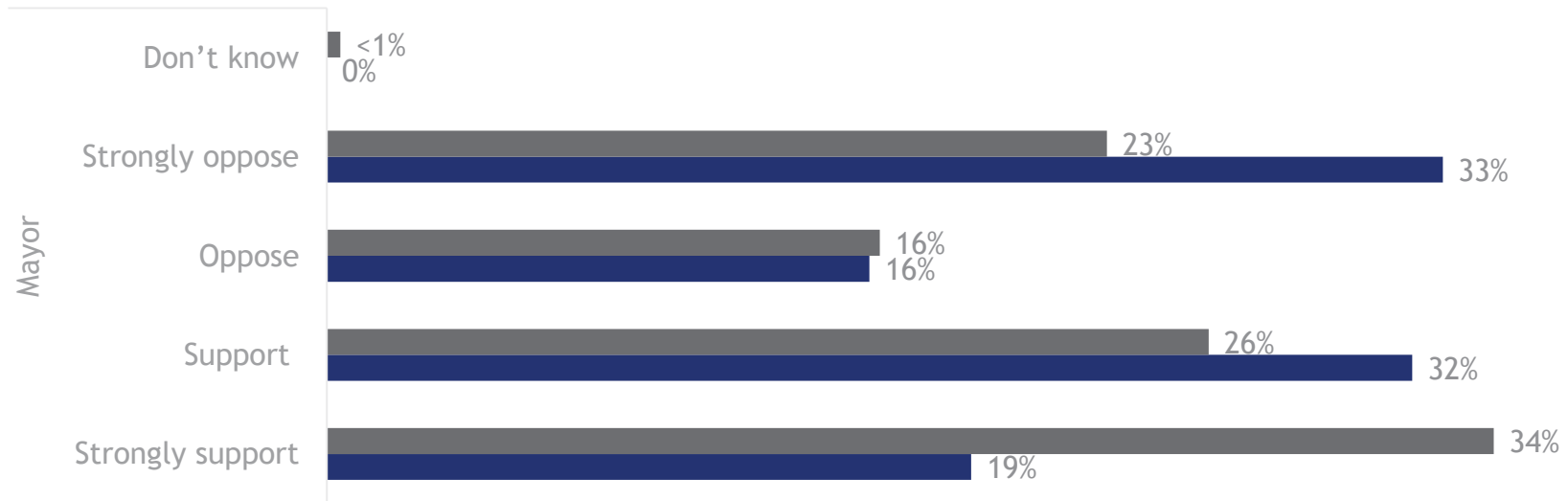
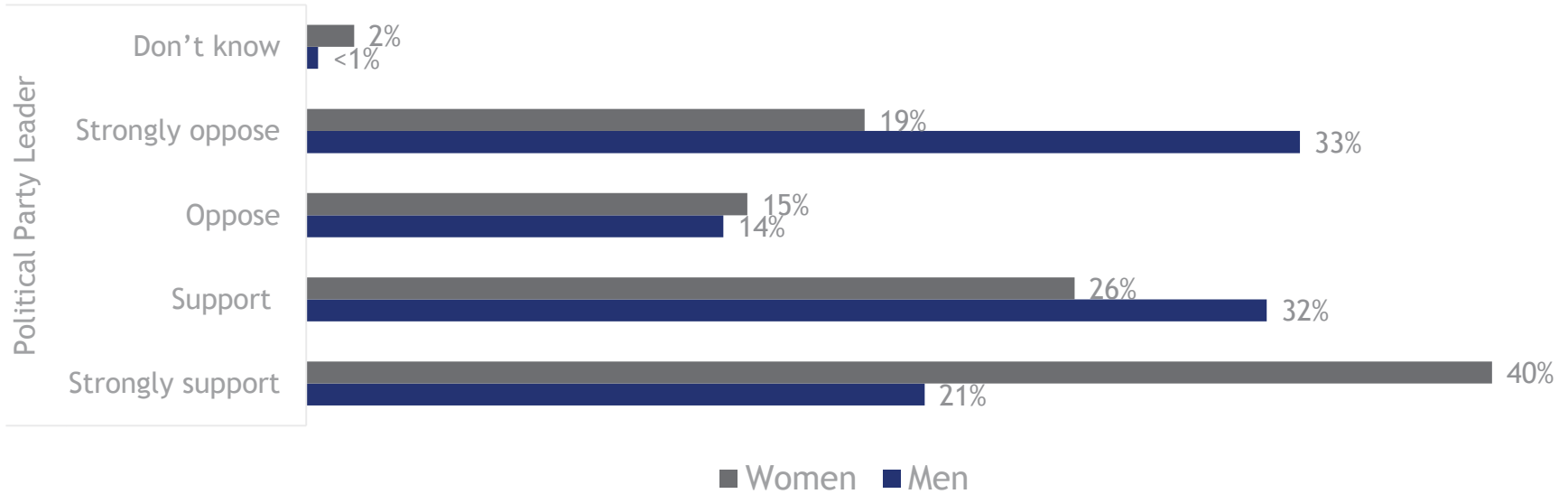
For each position listed, please indicate if you strongly support, support, oppose or strongly oppose qualified women to attain the following positions:



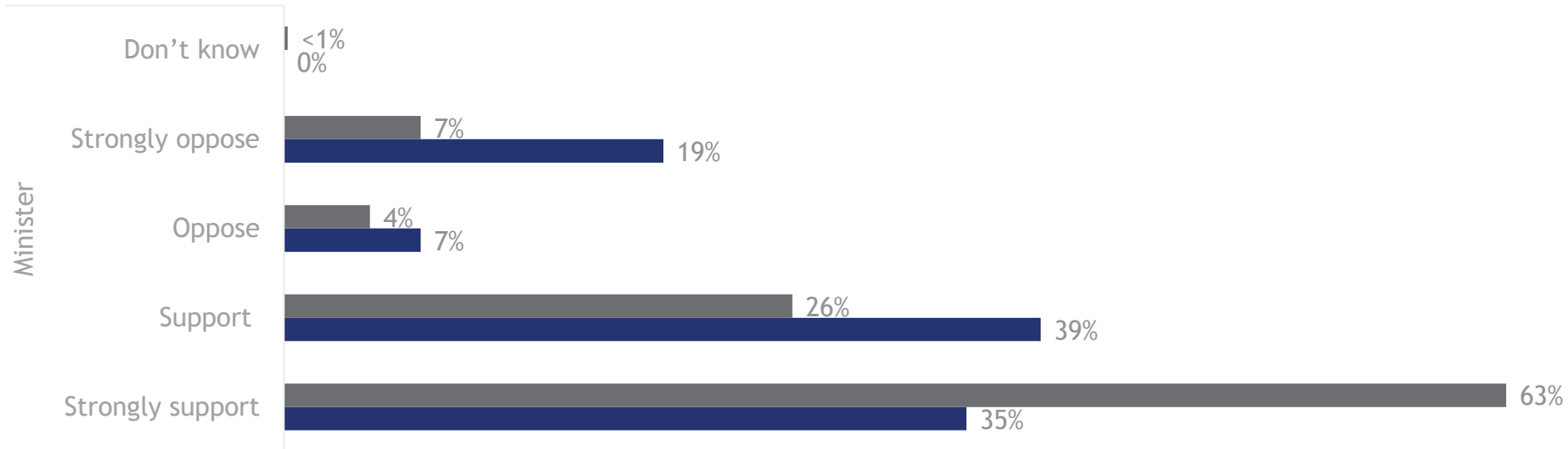
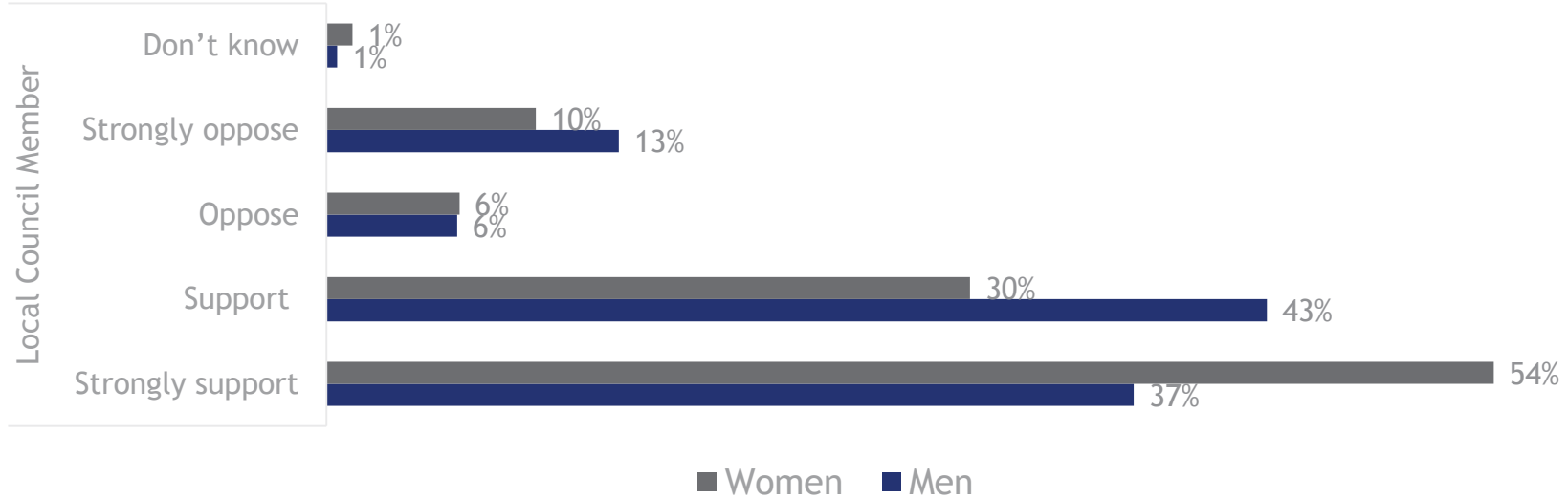
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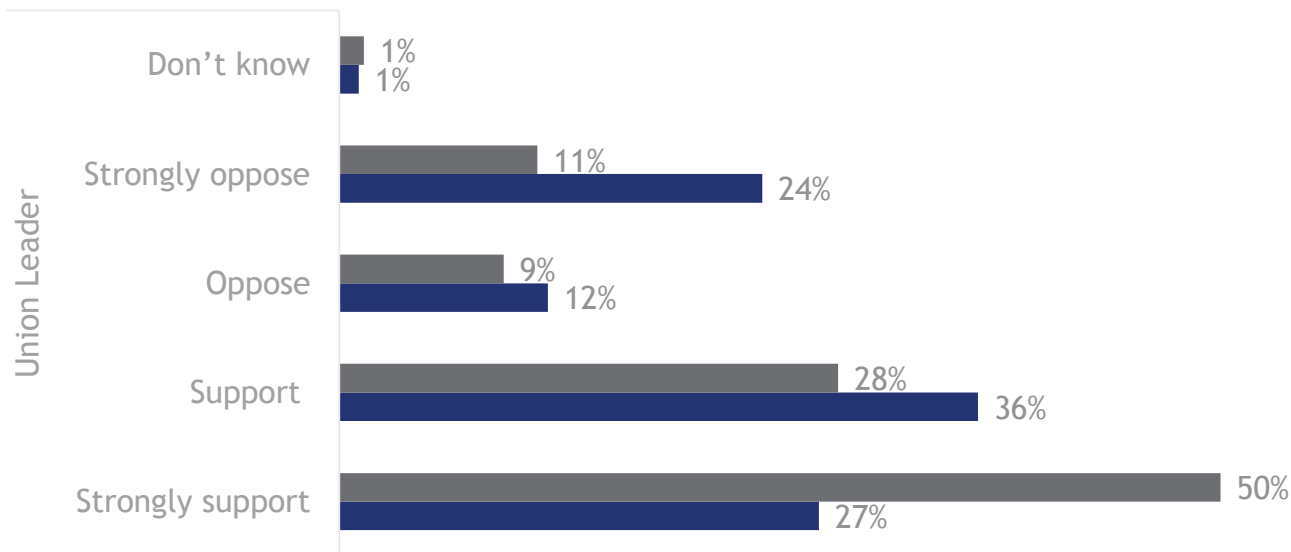
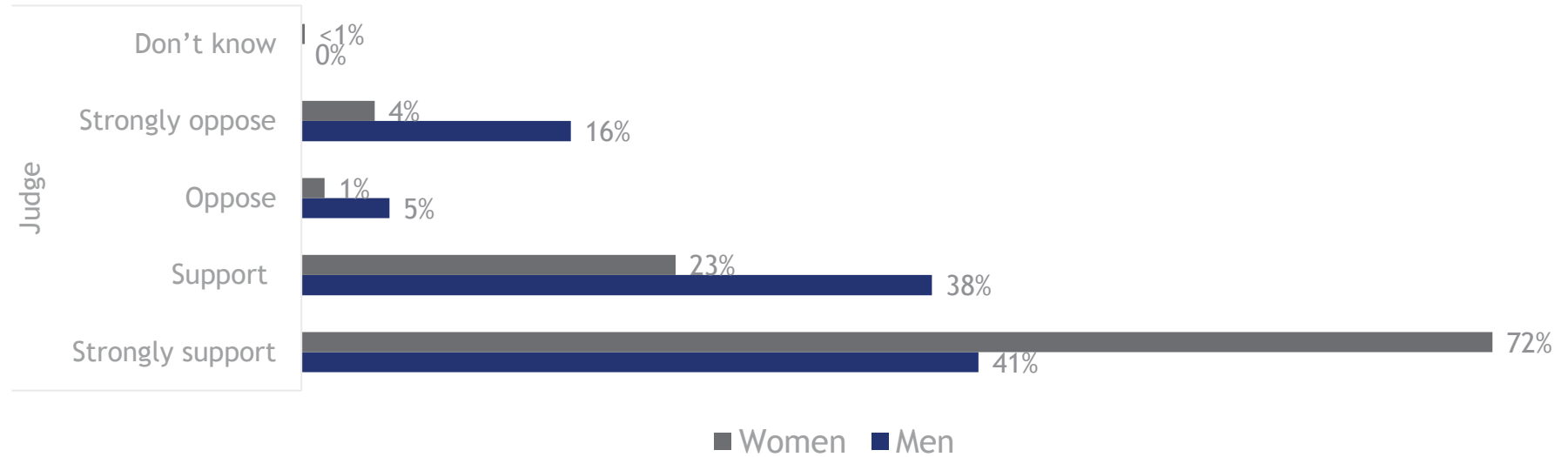
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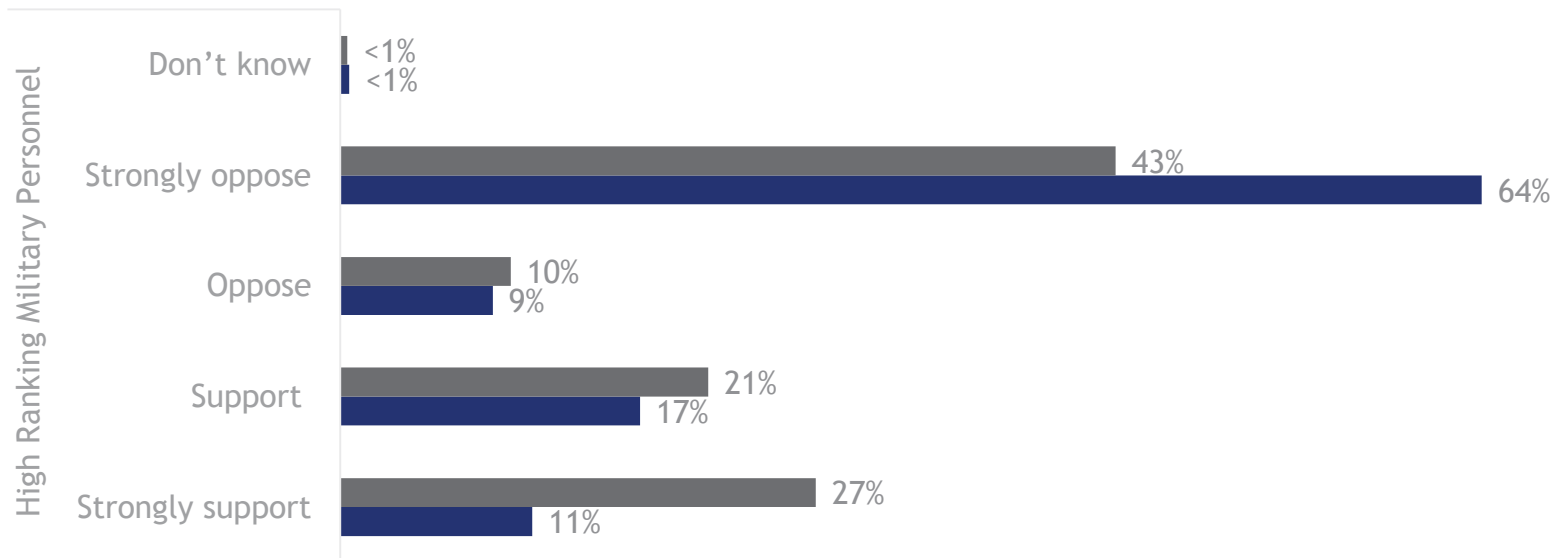
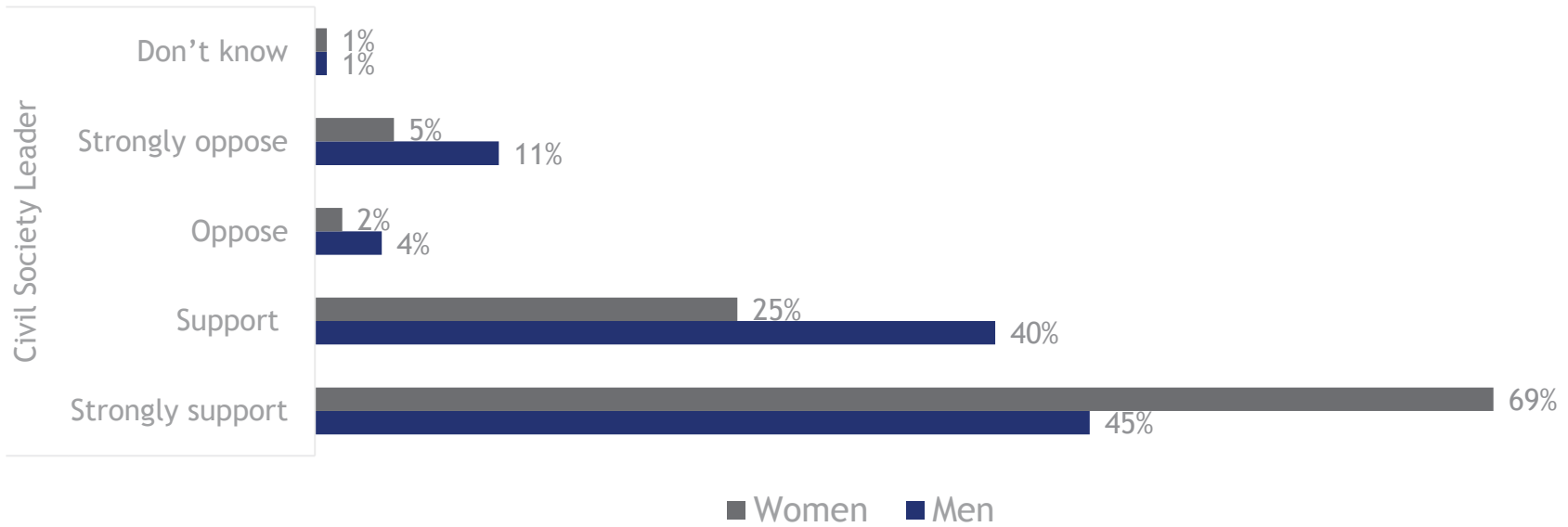
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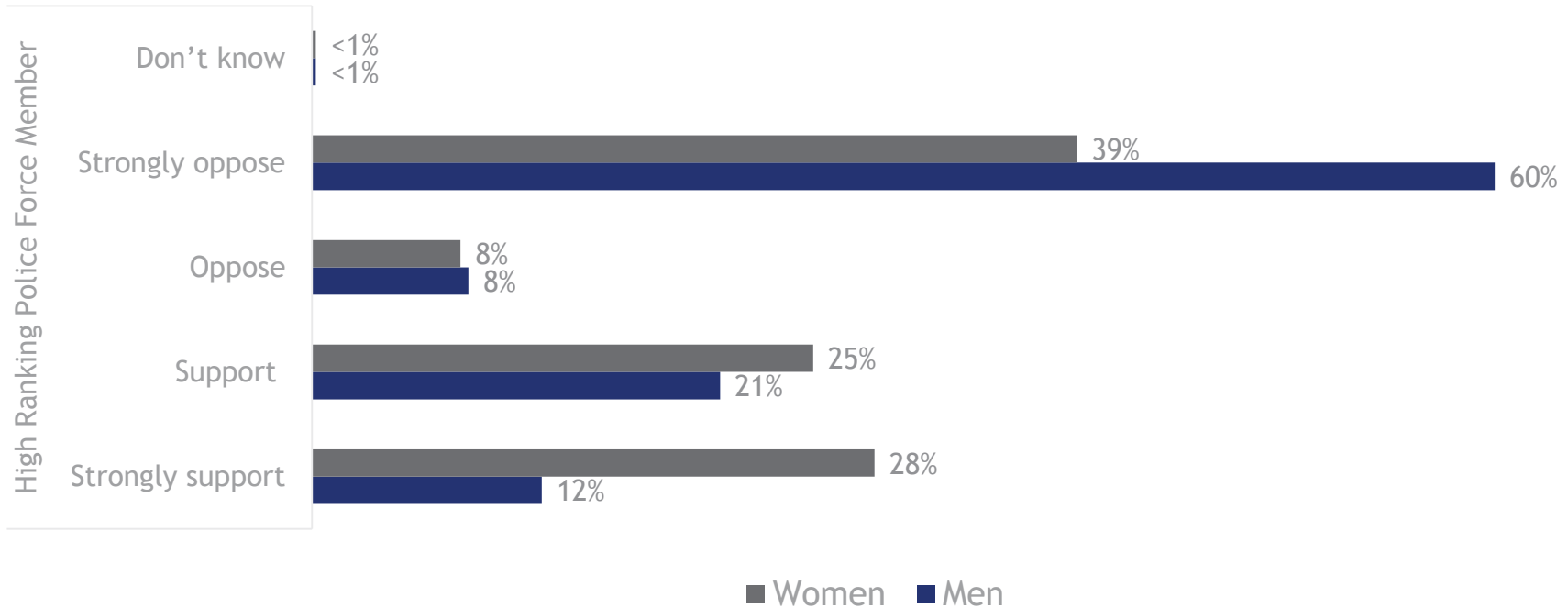
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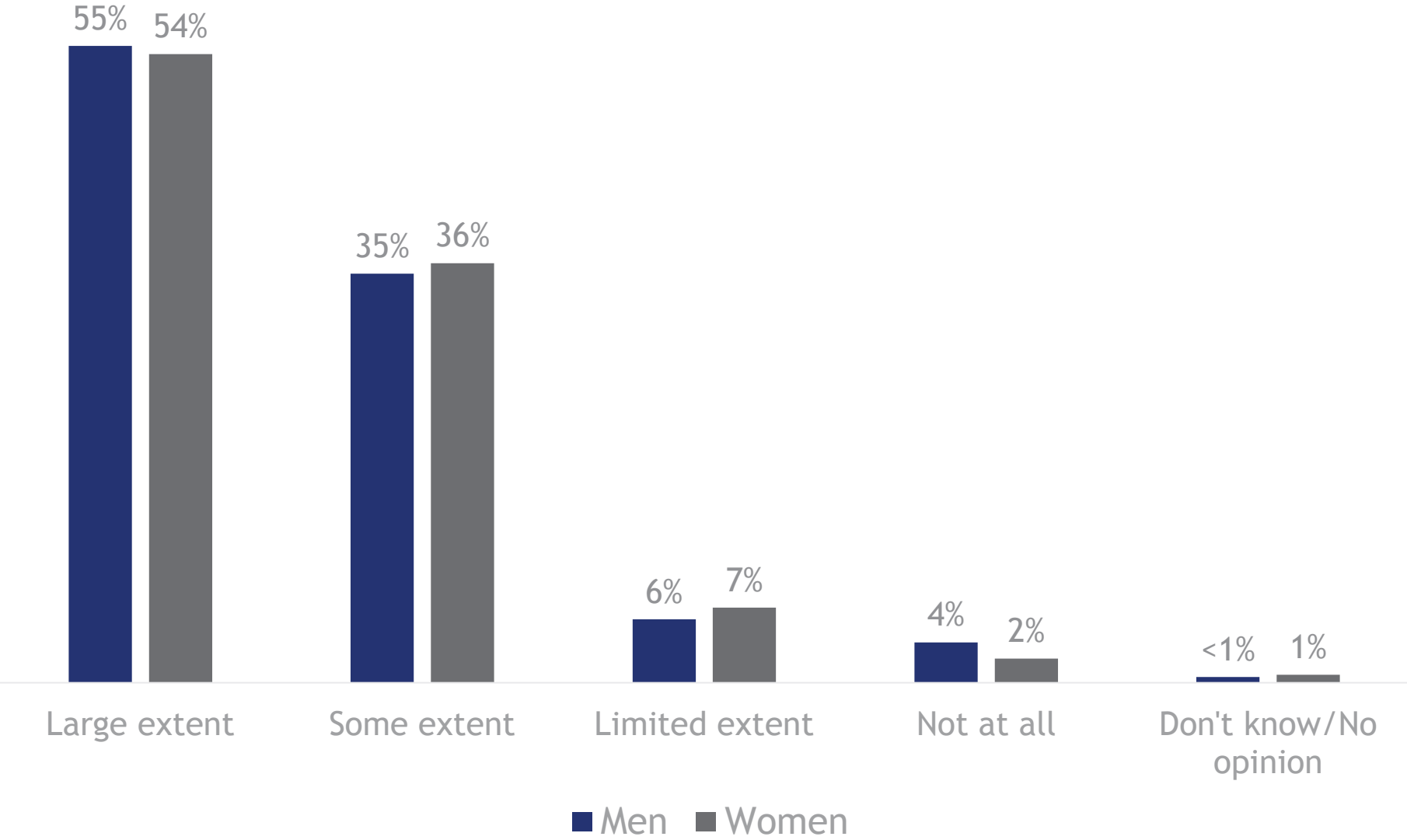
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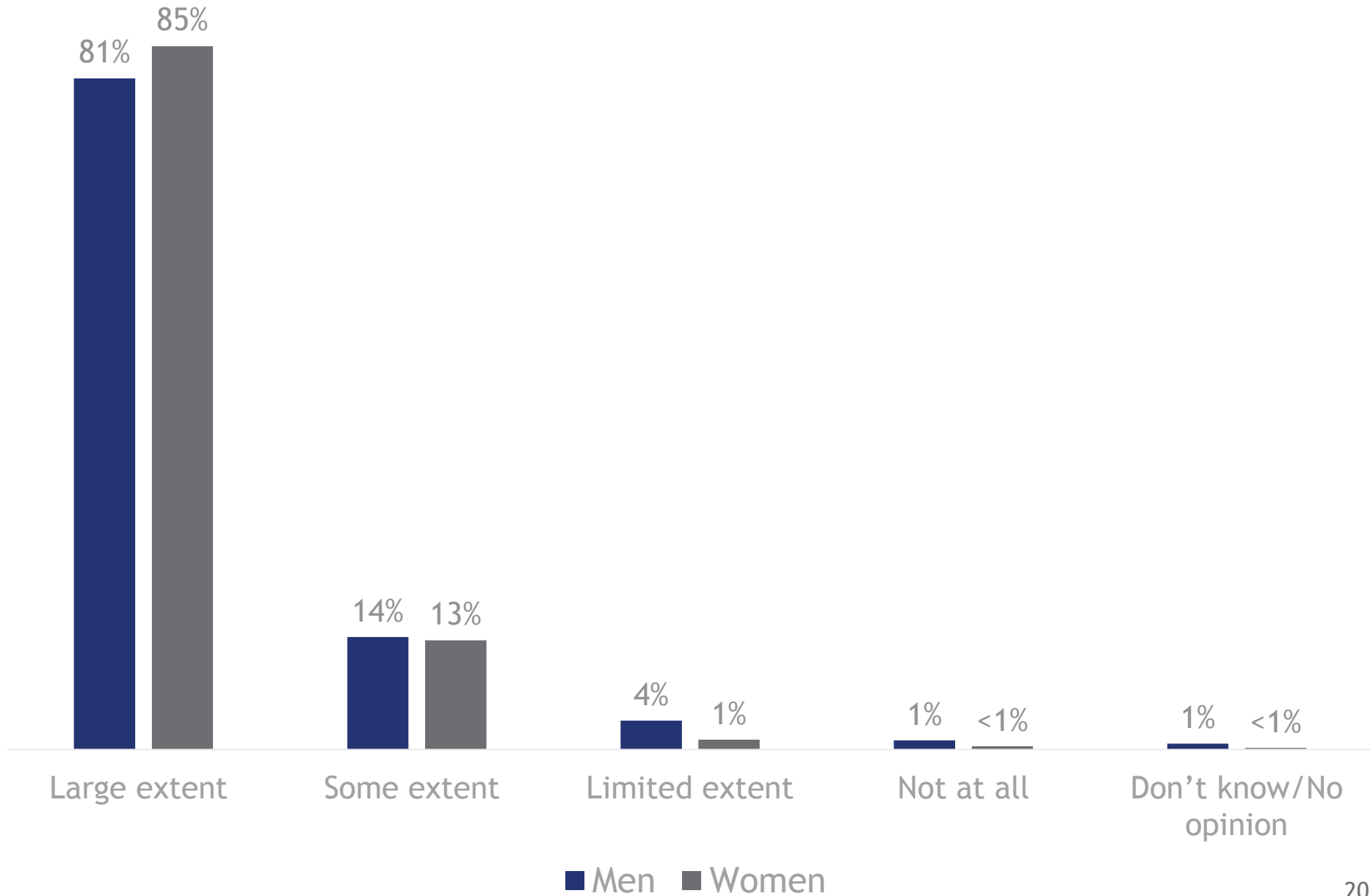
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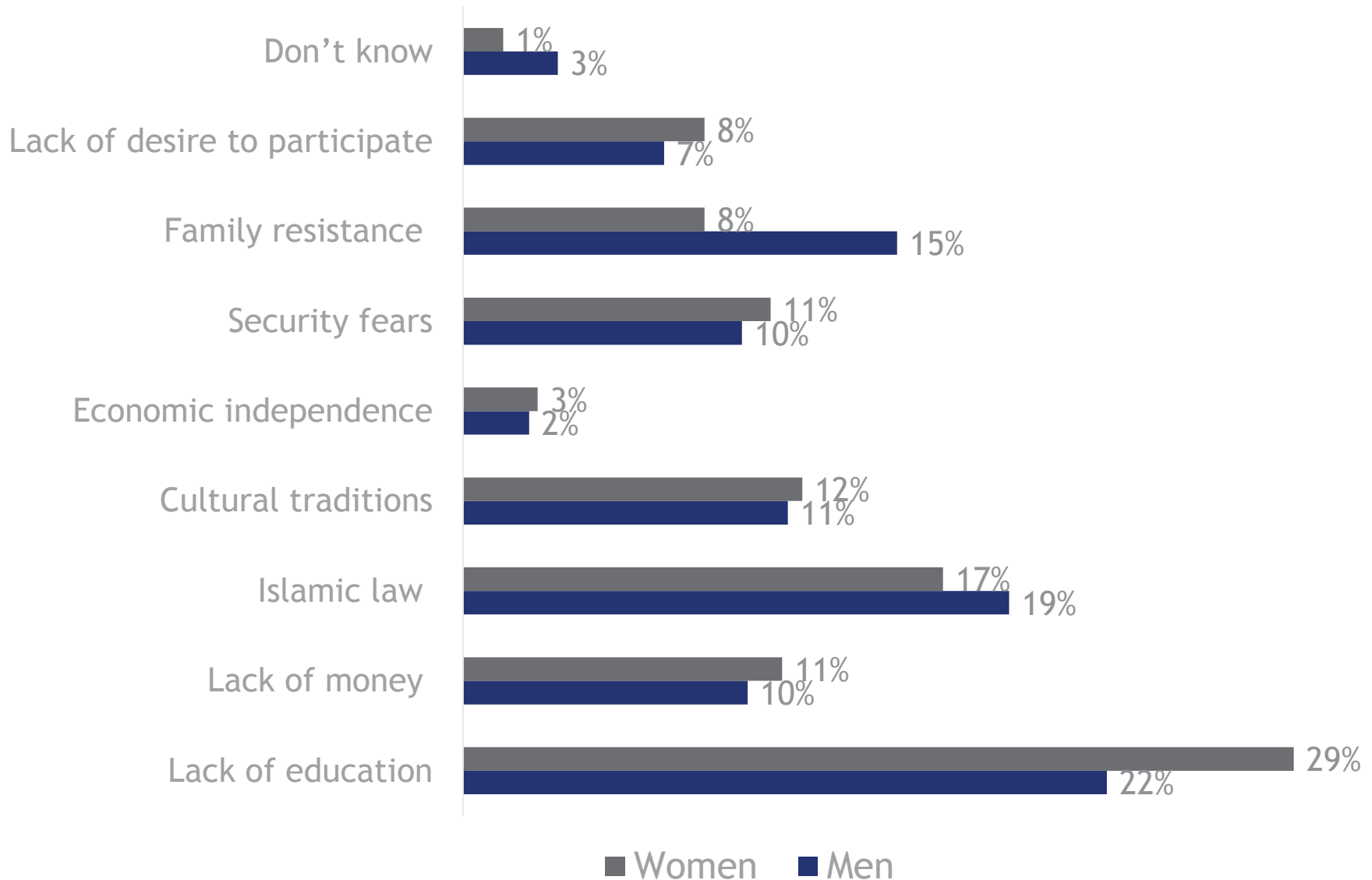
To what extent do you feel that women are allowed to freely participate fully in Tunisian society?



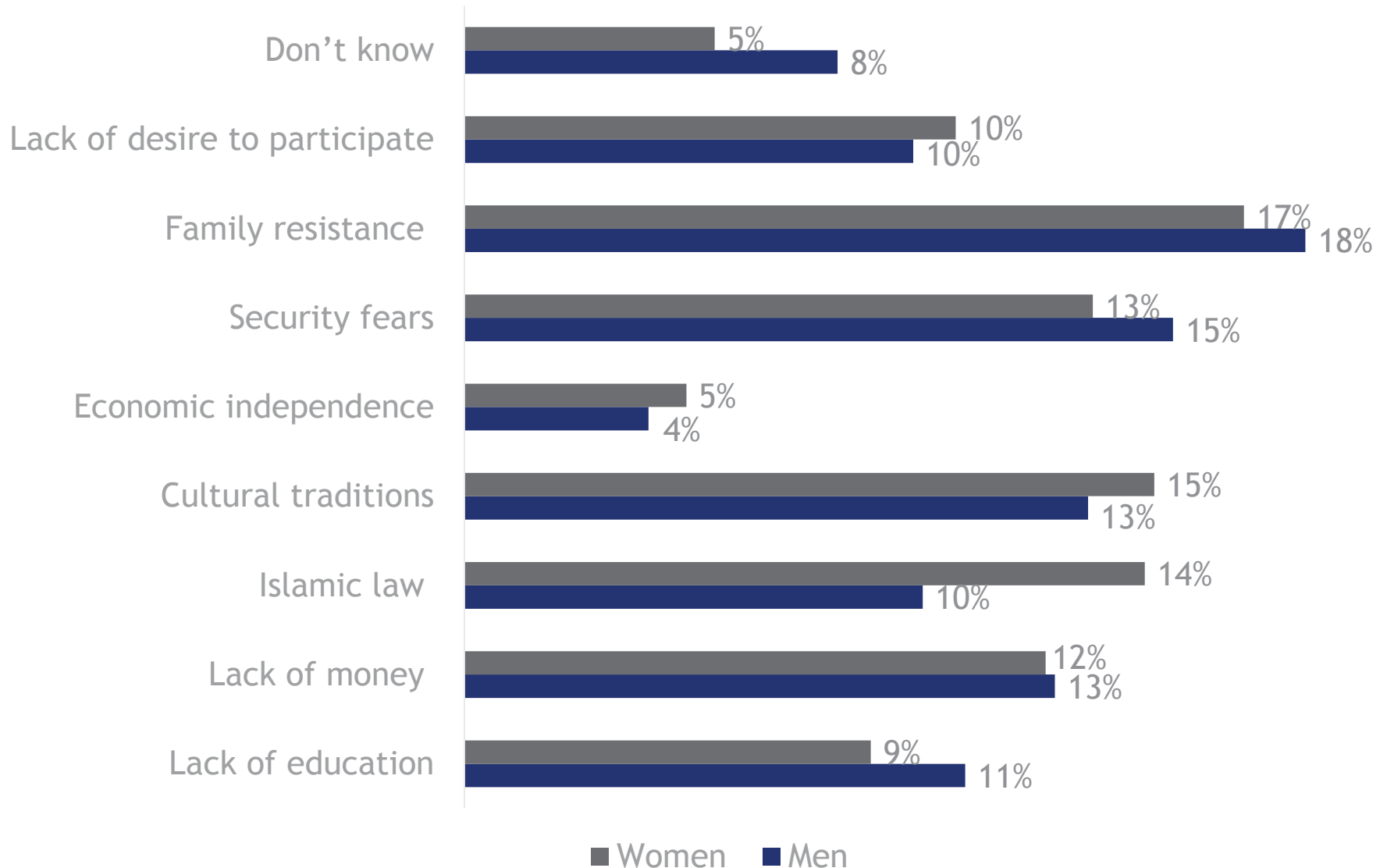
To what extent do you feel that men are allowed to freely participate fully in Tunisian society?



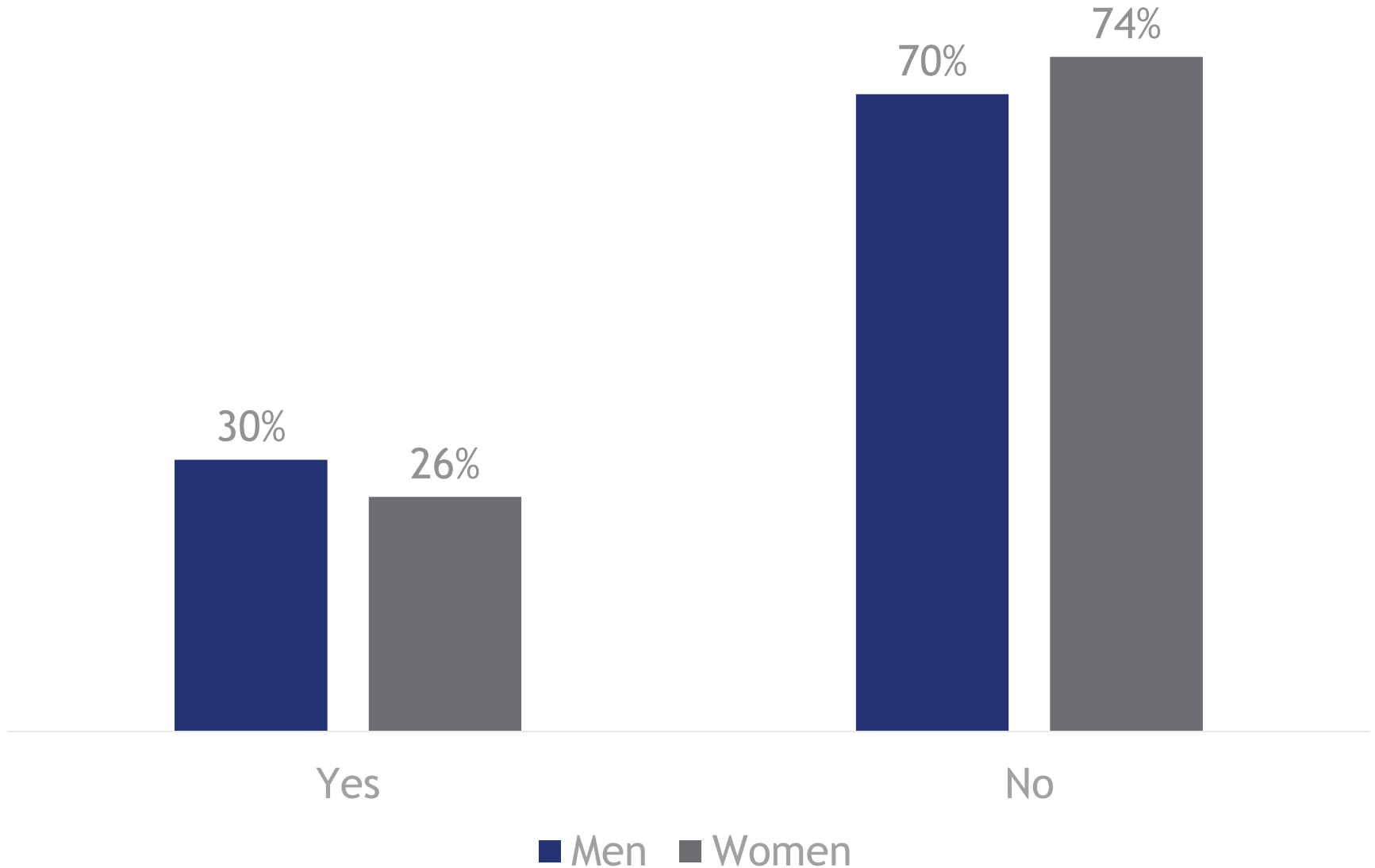
What are the main challenges facing women's political participation in Tunisia today? (Main challenge)



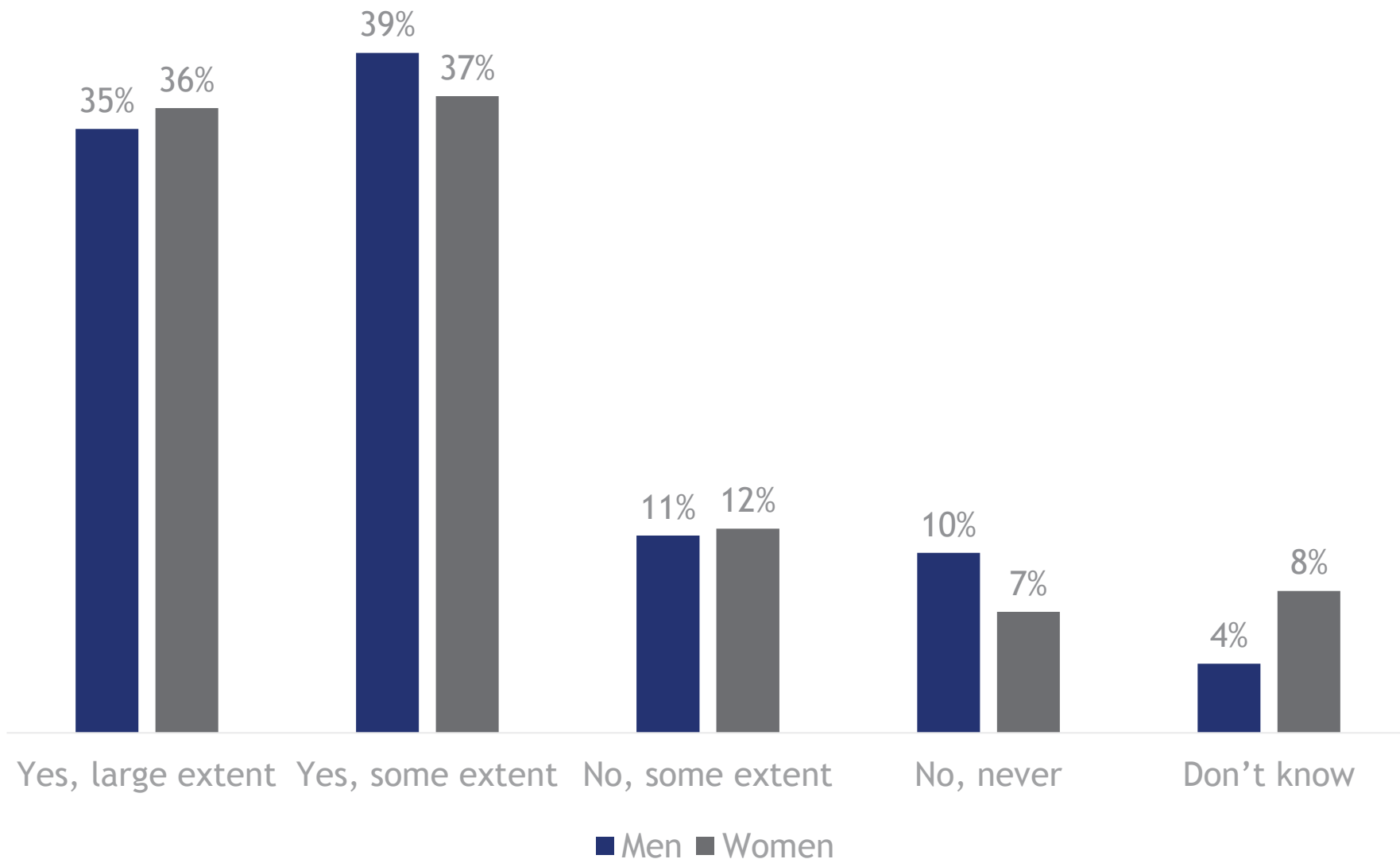
What are the main challenges facing women's political participation in Tunisia today? (Second main challenge)



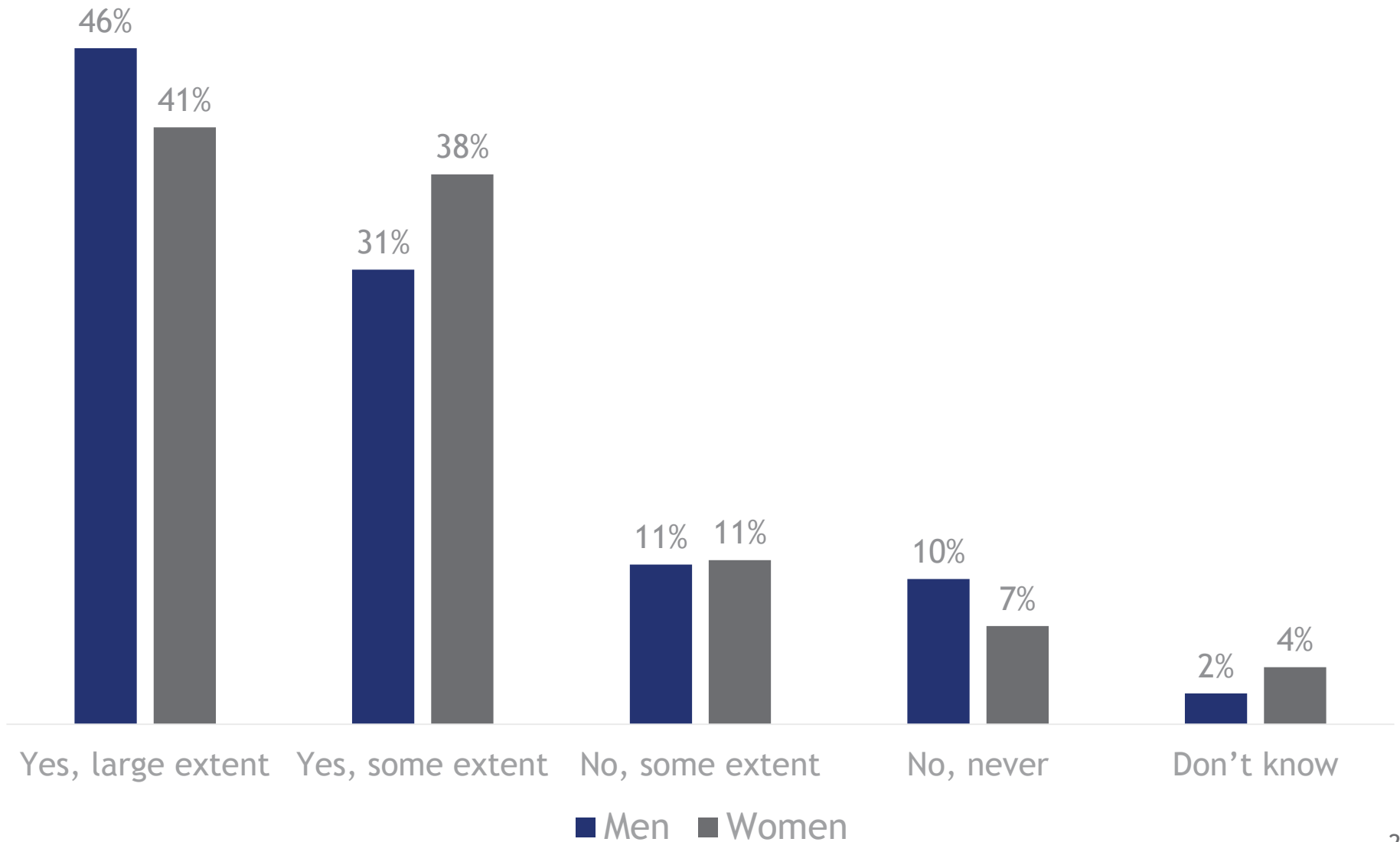
Do you know of any organizations that work in the field of women's political rights?



Do you think that women's organizations contribute positively towards improving women's political participation in Tunisia?



In your opinion, does media promote a positive image of women in general?



Qualitative Insights on Support for Women Candidates Increases, Need for Improvement Remains

“I am noticing that there is progress in women’s political participation, and this, for example, is apparent in the Parliament, where the female element is present. As a start, this is good.” (Male, 21)

“Having women nominated and submitting their candidacy for elections is in itself a victory.” (Female, 29)

“In political parties, a woman does not have the same value as a man. Men always have the advantage.” (Female, 49)

“Women’s representation [in the recent elections] was fair because there were women listed on all the ballots, but their role was not effective and the level of their participation was weak.” (Female, 49)

“Women have imposed their presence, and those who want the country to advance and develop need to allow and encourage women to participate in political life and in all areas.” (Female, 49)

“Women’s unwillingness to participate is in itself a major obstacle. They are used to staying at home and raising children.” (Male, 20)

“Women usually are afraid of failure and of having their [political] opponent be a male, and that is wrong, because failure helps women to retry and succeed.” (Female, 22)

“I vote for women to occupy any political position except for the head of state, because I don’t imagine a woman can succeed in such a position.” (Female, 29)

Qualitative Insights on Support for Women Candidates Increases, Need for Improvement Remains

“The biggest obstacle for a woman is her personality, which is inherently emotional. Her decisions will all be based on emotion and so she does not obtain leadership positions.” (Male, 21).

“Women’s roles are more prominent and more active in associations compared to politics. It is the opposite for males, who have limited or nonexistent participation in associations.” (Female, 49)

“The prevailing mentality is the problem and not a woman’s emotion. If a woman [in a position of power] issues a ruling, it will be based on the provisions of the laws in line with it. Society always focuses on the ‘women are lacking in reason and religion’ saying.” (Female, 22)

“In current times, the media is on women’s side and aims to promote ideas of equality between men and women. The role of the media needs to be positive and constructive towards women.” (Female, 49)

“After the 2011 Revolution, women have become more active in political life. We always find a female element among the participants in political programs, and their presence is notable in the media and in rallies.” (Female, 22)

“Most of the prominent names [of women] in political parties are there because of their husbands or brothers who are themselves members of the party that the woman belongs to or they are a prominent political figure themselves.” (Female, 26)

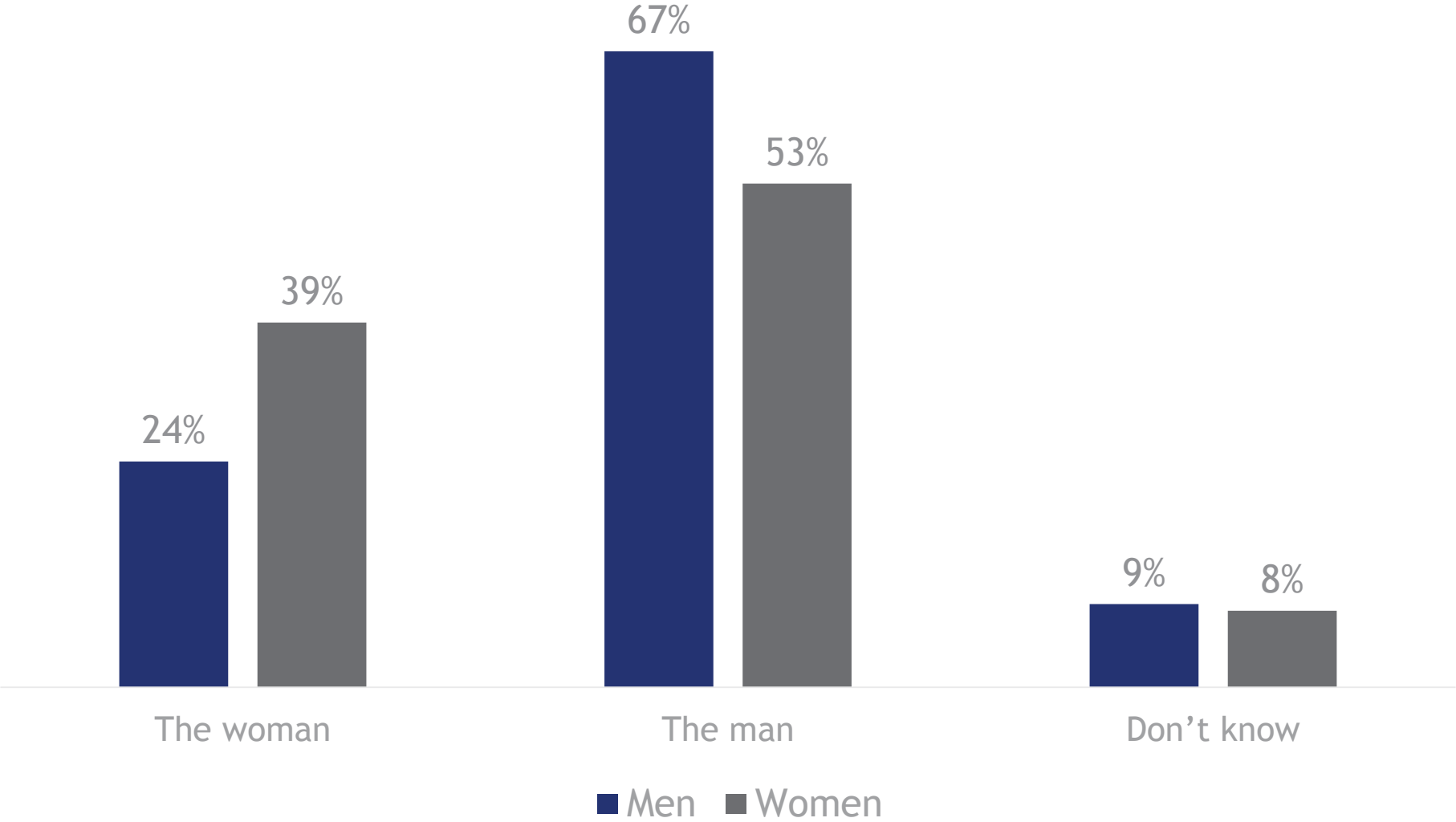
“Social media websites are good and effective for us to be able to get to know [the politicians] and become familiar with their platforms and future plans.” (Female, 26)

“There are several positions that a woman cannot fulfill, such as political positions or the management of companies; it is better to give these positions to men. This is mainly due to the Tunisian general mentality that always prefers a male presence in positions of leadership, where, according to this belief, women lack the strength that men have. Still, I believe that now women are more educated than before and can command several positions better than men.” (Female, 25)

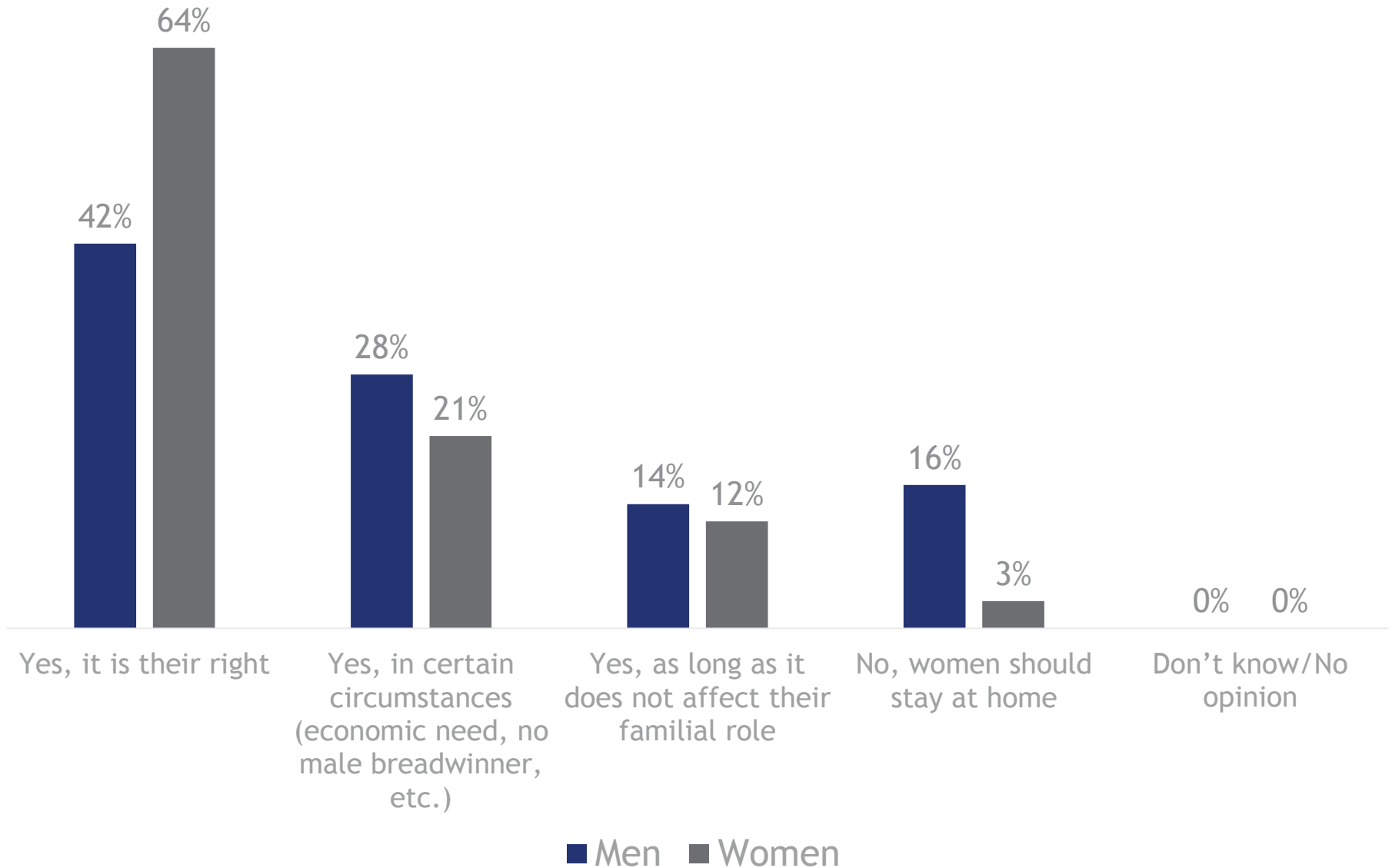


Employment & Access to Economic Improvement Opportunities for Women is Mediocre

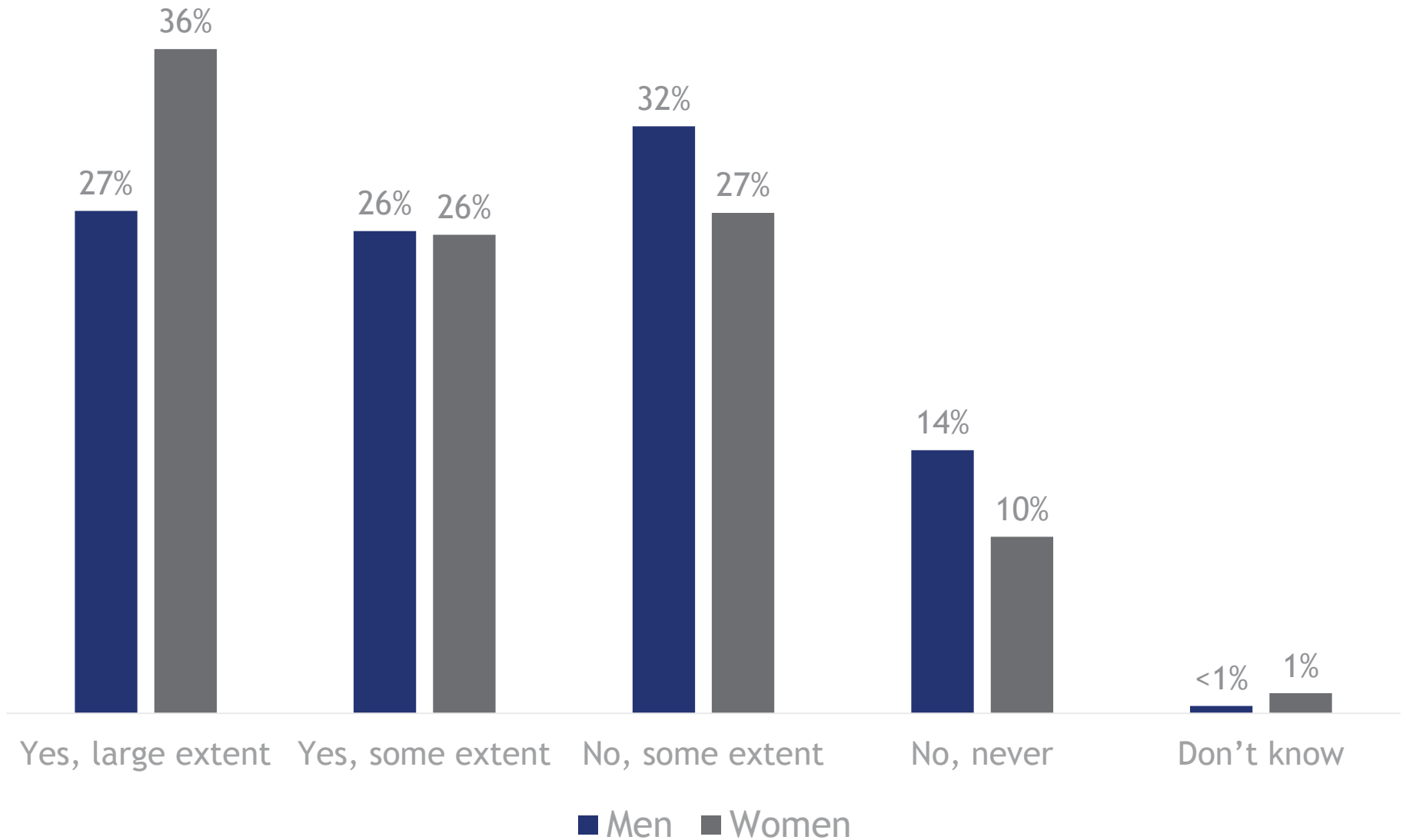
If two equally-qualified applicants, one man and one woman, are being considered for employment, who would you hire?



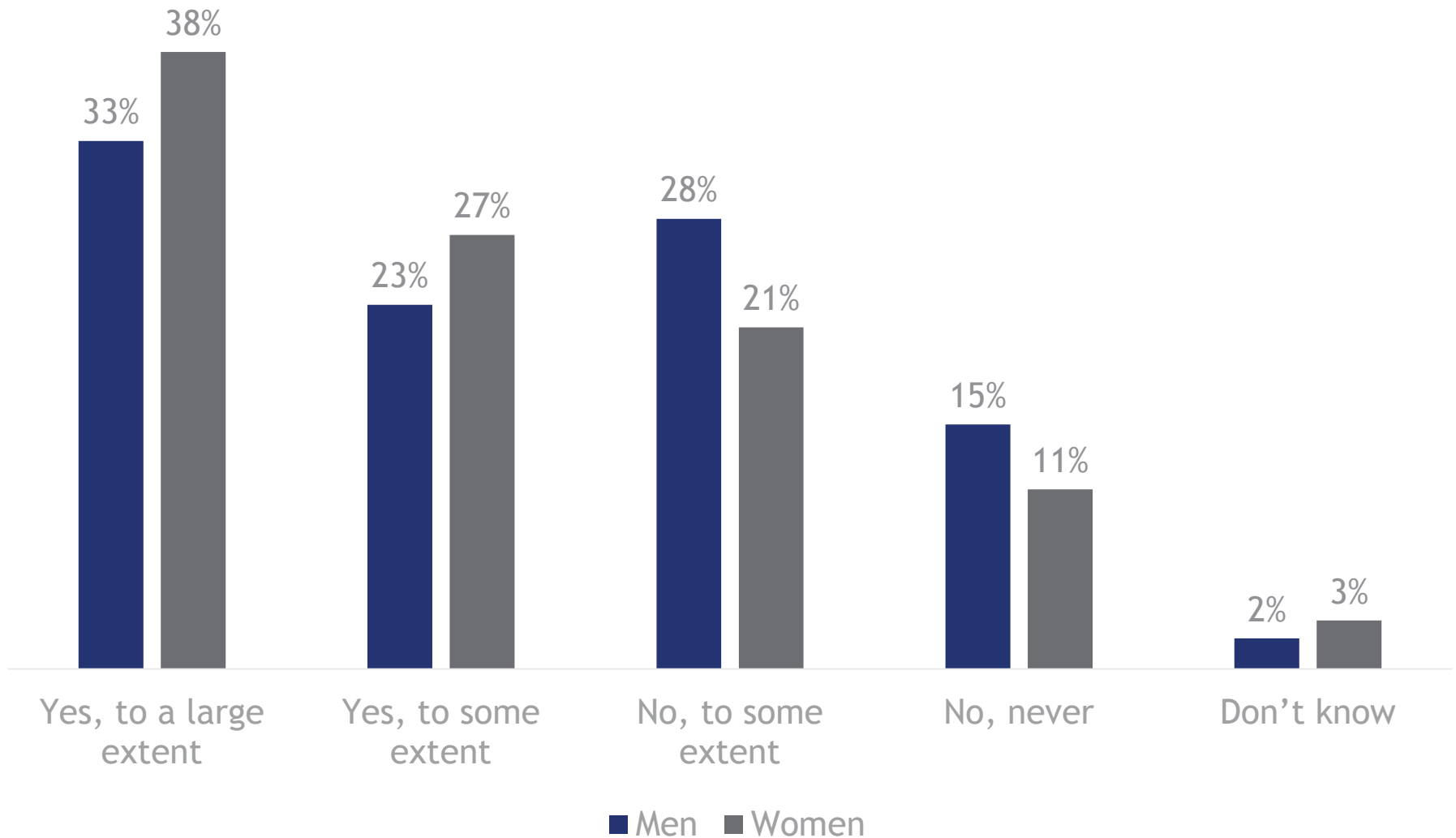
Do you support women working outside the home?



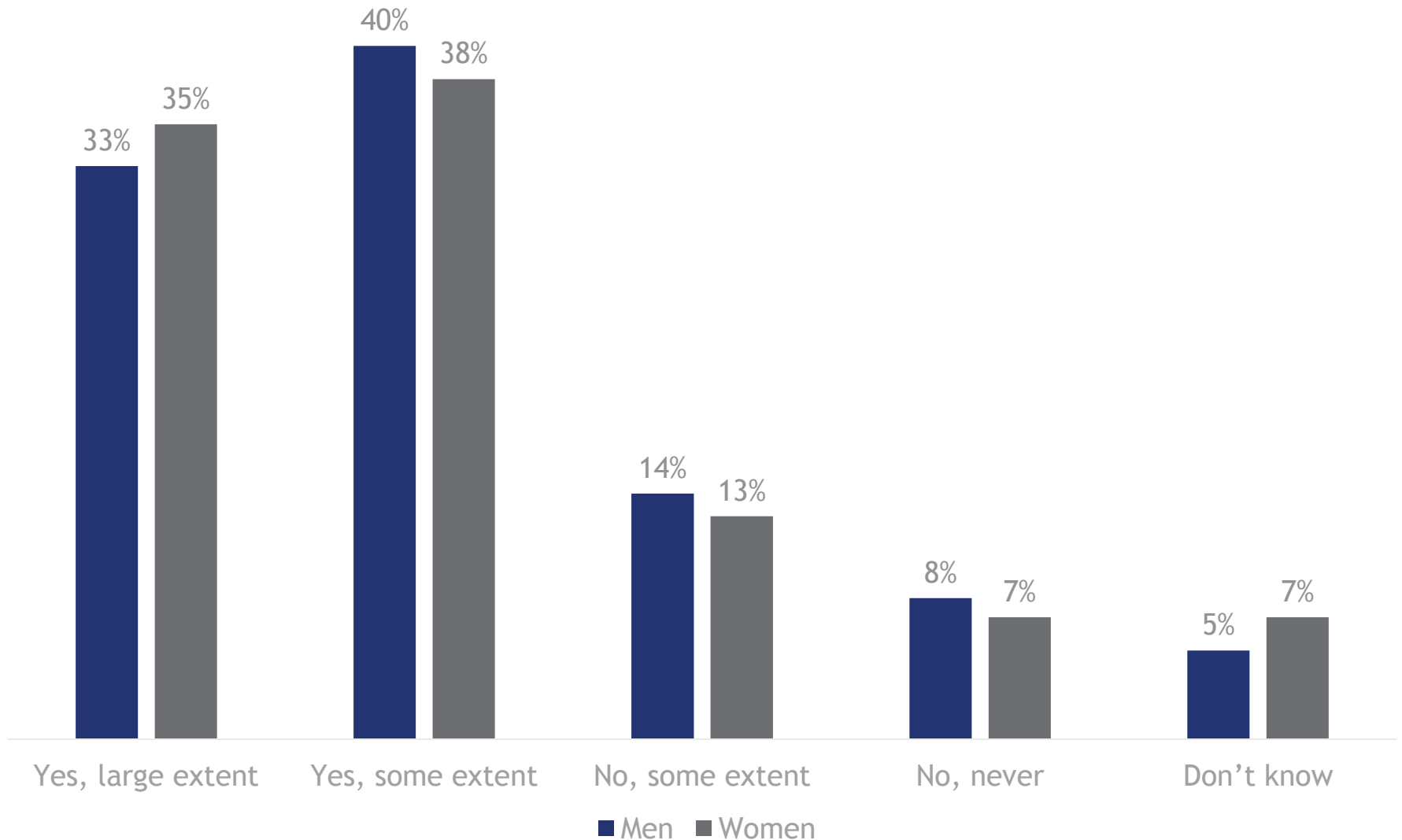
Do you feel men and women enjoy the same access to employment?



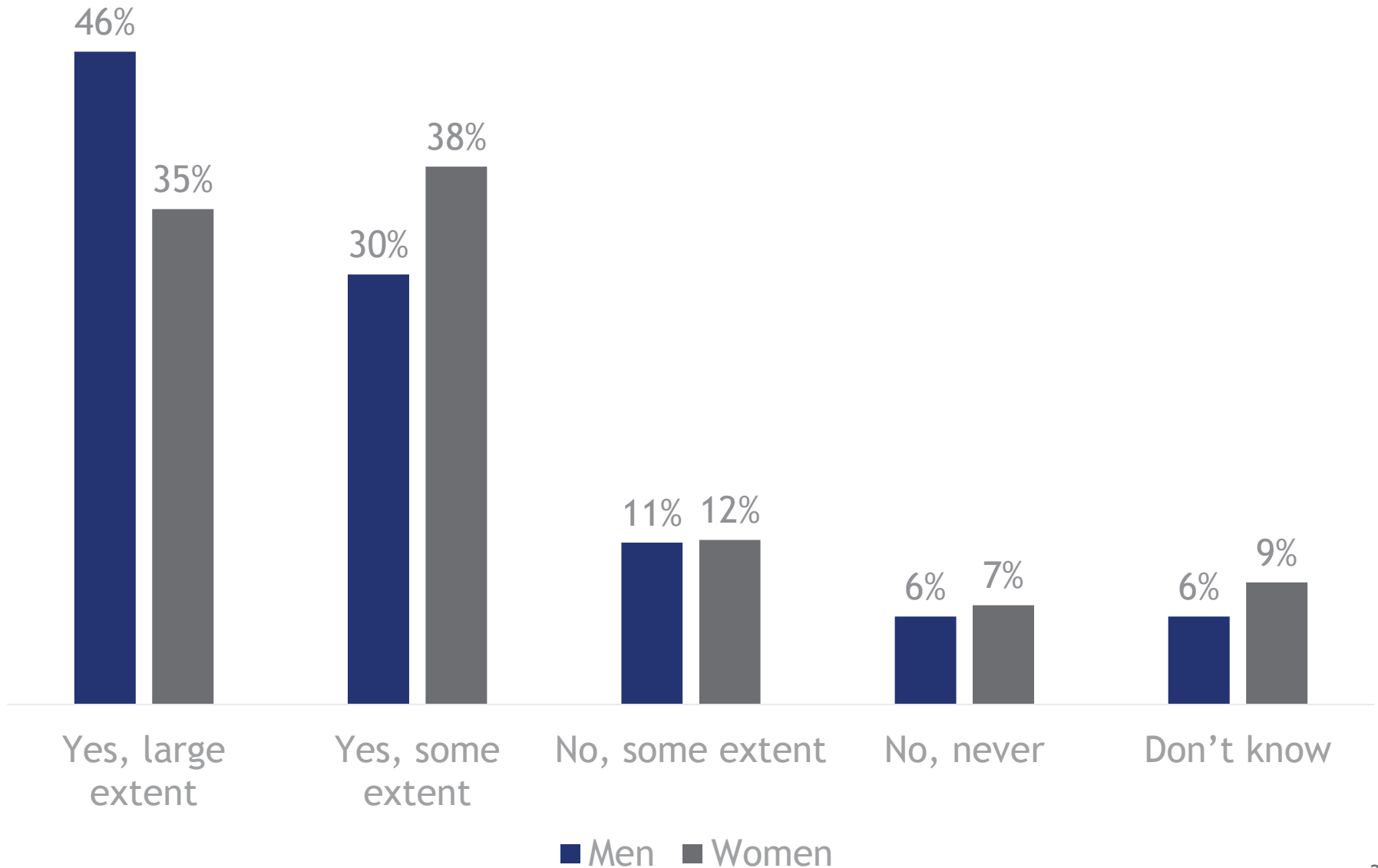
Do you feel men and women receive equal wages, if completing the same work?



Do you think that women's organizations contribute positively towards improving women's economic livelihoods in Tunisia?

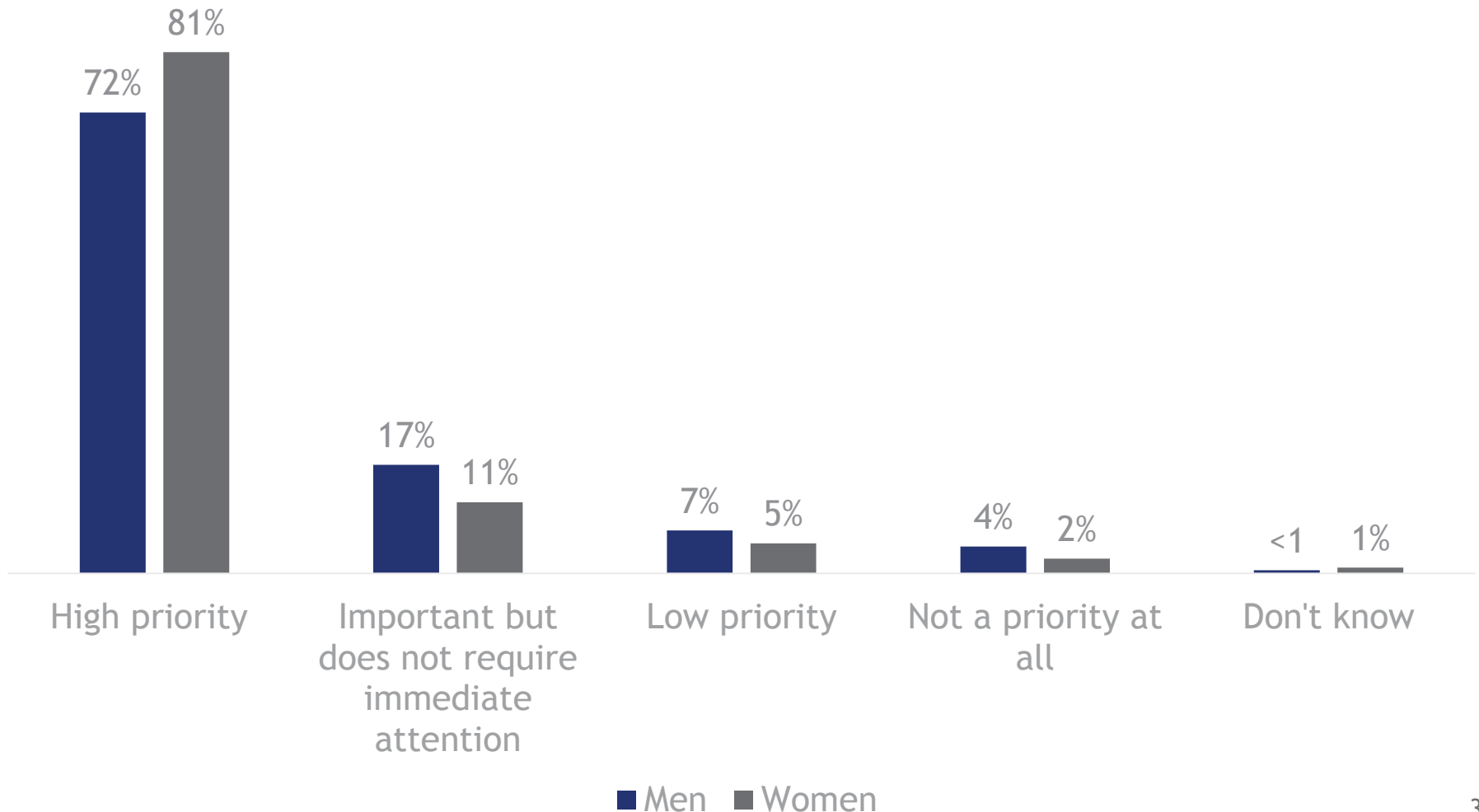


Do you believe that the government in your country is promoting policies and programs to support the rights of women?



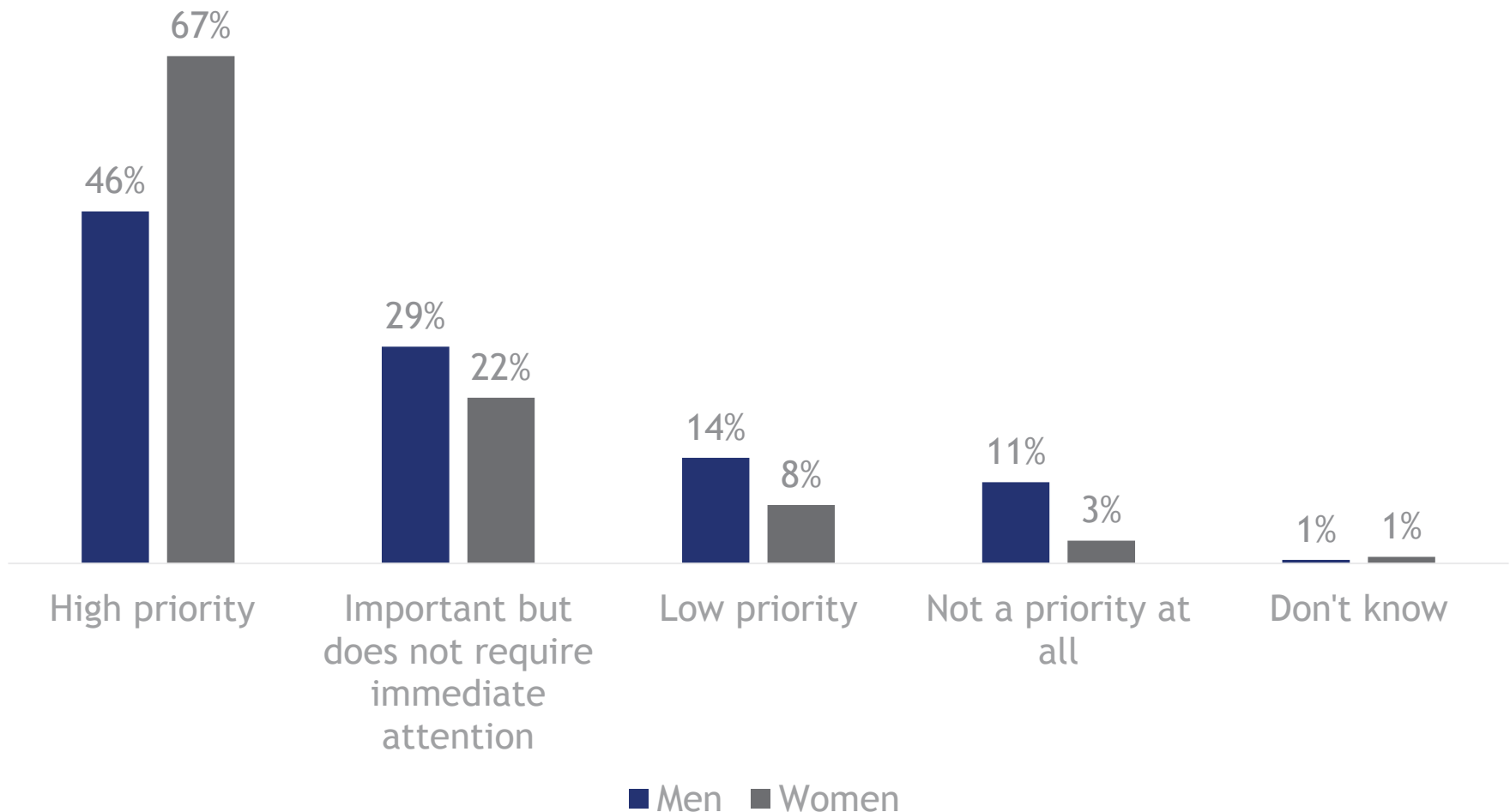
For each policy issue listed, please indicate if it is a high priority, important but does not require immediate attention, low priority or not a priority at all to improve women's status in Tunisia:

Equal access to higher education



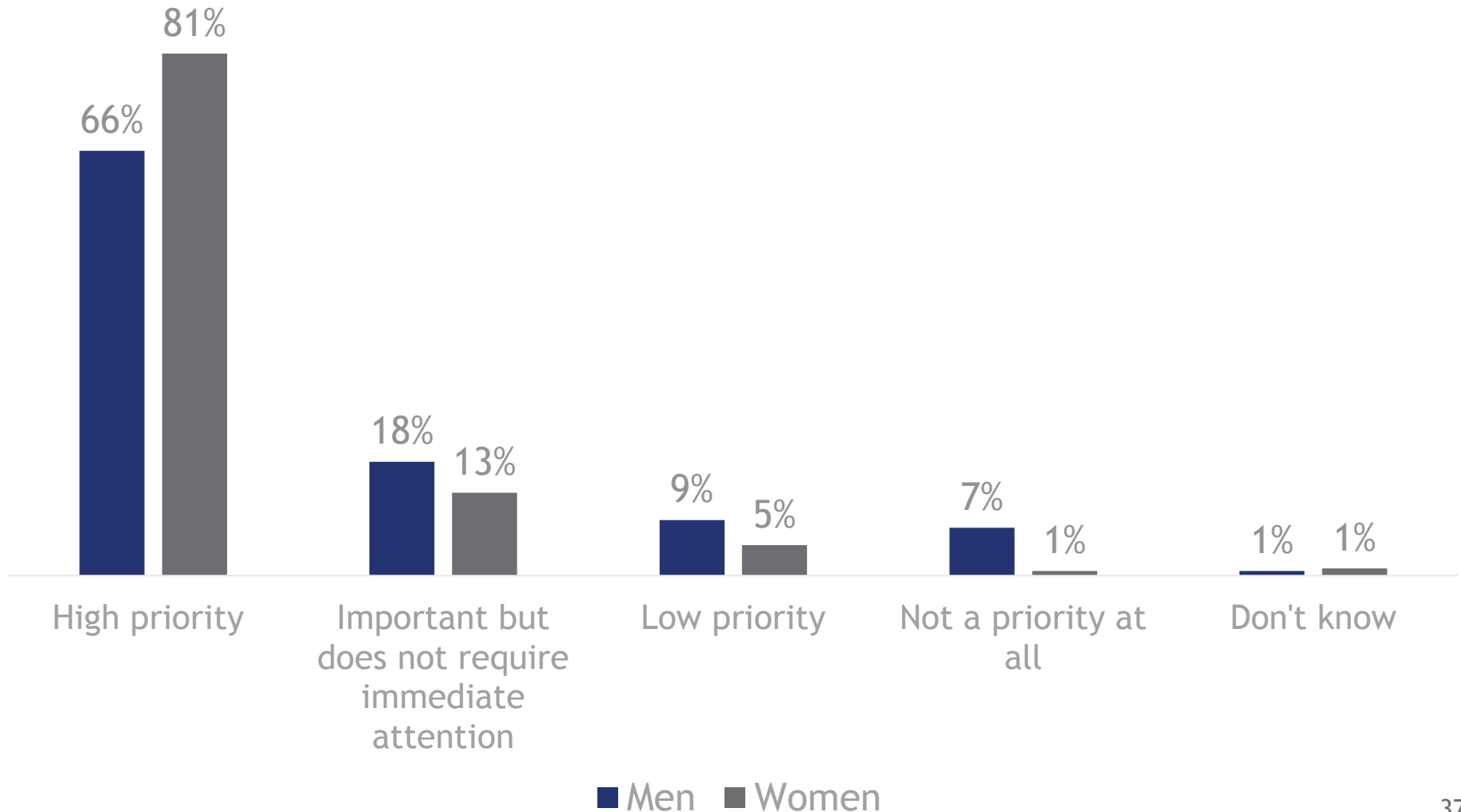
For each policy issue listed, please indicate if it is a high priority, important but does not require immediate attention, low priority or not a priority at all to improve women's status in Tunisia:

Equal pay/Compensation



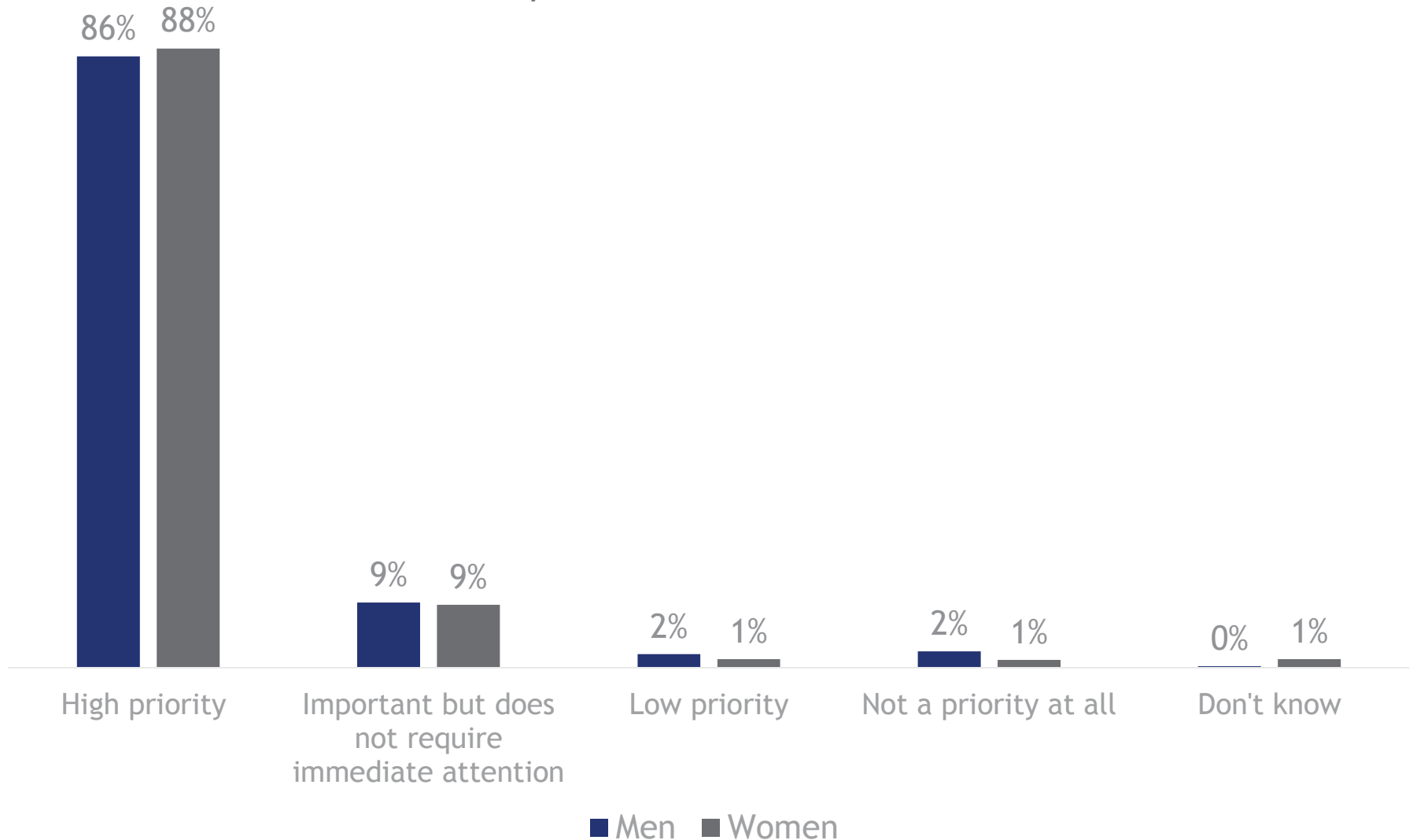
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Equal employment/Anti-discrimination in hiring



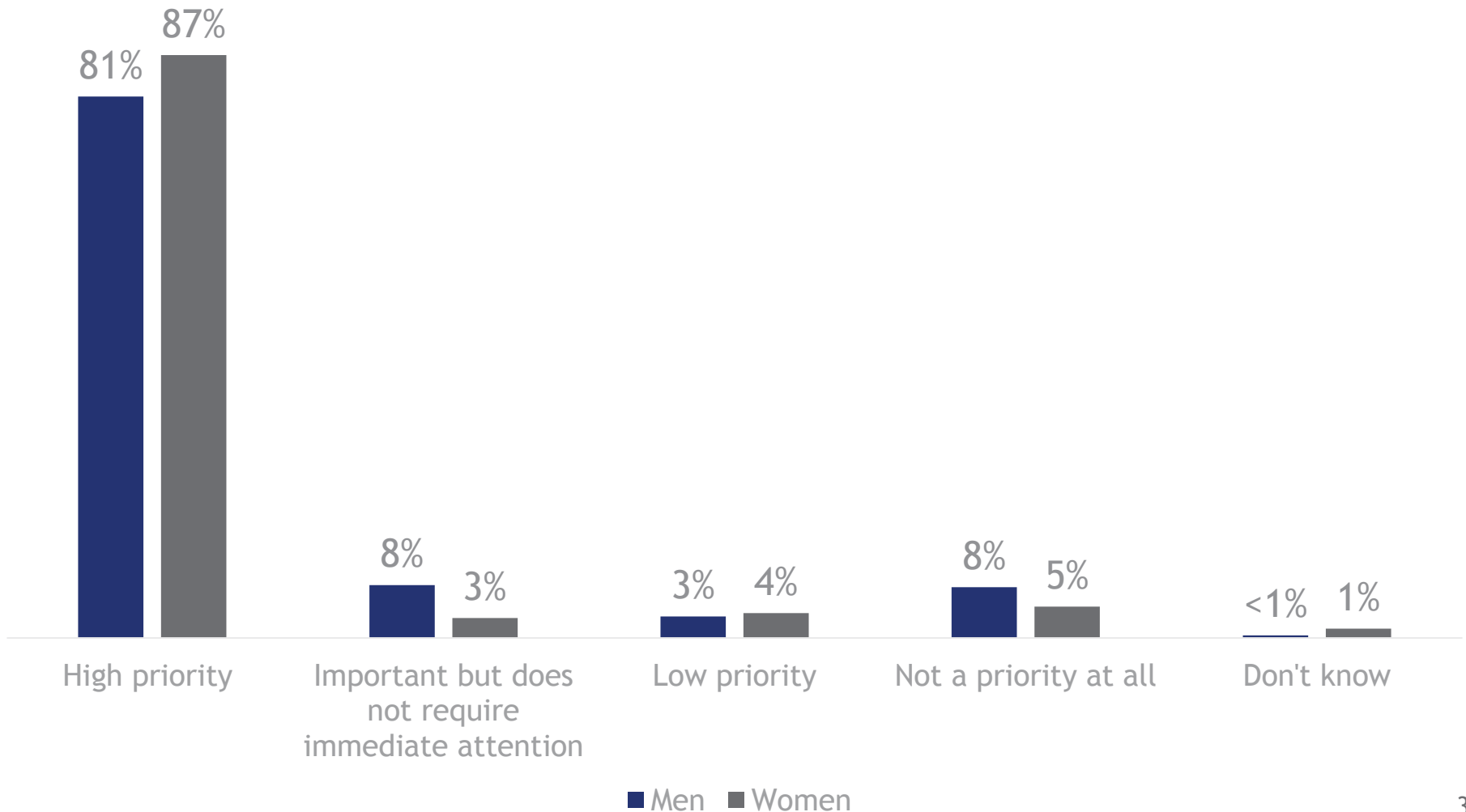
For each policy issue listed, please indicate if it is a high priority, important but does not require immediate attention, low priority or not a priority at all to improve women's status in Tunisia:

Equal access to healthcare

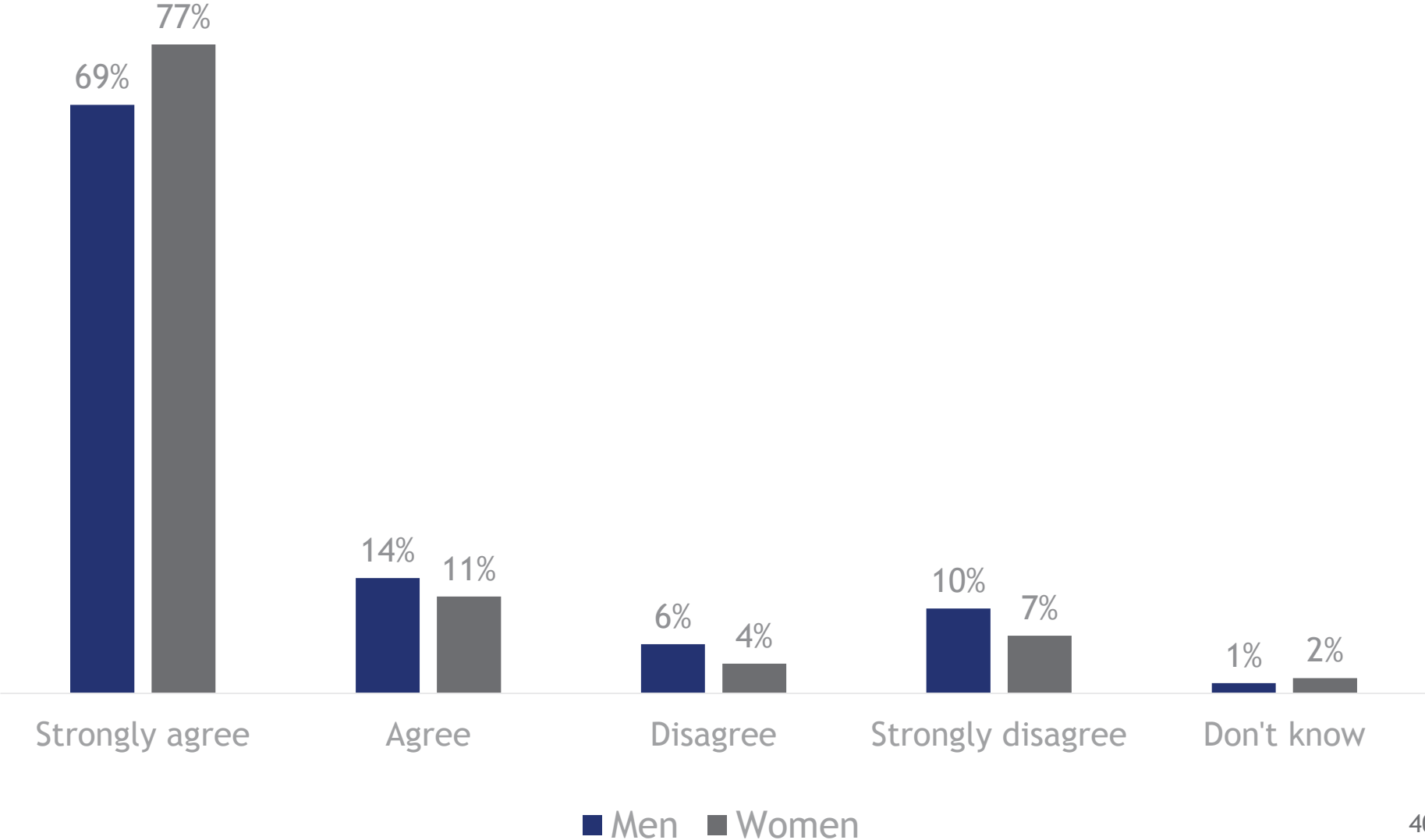


For each policy issue listed, please indicate if it is a high priority, important but does not require immediate attention, low priority or not a priority at all to improve women's status in Tunisia:

Domestic violence



Do you agree or disagree that the government should provide safe houses for the victims of domestic violence?



Qualitative Insights on Employment & Access to Economic Improvement Opportunities for Women is Mediocre

“Education differentiates between urban and rural areas. In rural areas, the idea that a girl’s place is at home and that education is a right for the boy prevails.” (Female, 25)

“Some time is needed [for women] to rid themselves of the fear that controls them and start acting freely. A woman needs to show self-respect to gain the respect of the community, and also learn from school, the family and the community, as they are all interconnected.” (Female, 30)

“Women have an active role in the community because they are involved with men in all fields, such as economics, development and politics.” (Female, 55)

“Women have imposed themselves in society, and sometimes we find them working harder than men. The problem is that society does not accept this idea and does not recognize equality between men and women.” (Female, 50)

“We see women in all areas, doctors, engineers, pilots. Men are unable to support families on their own anymore.” (Female 43)

“We need to reconsider the educational system as a whole. The low level of education is a serious barrier for women.” (Female, 45)

Qualitative Insights on Employment & Access to Economic Improvement Opportunities for Women is Mediocre

“We should support women and not have their capabilities underestimated by their communities and competitors. We also need to withhold our judgment on a woman until after we see what she is capable of.” (Female, 25)

“Women should not listen to those who want to tarnish their image, and try and keep up with everything going on in the country.” (Male, 21)

“We need to increase women’s access and participation.” (Female, 25)

“The state needs to provide the financial opportunities to benefit women and raise awareness.” (Female, 29)

“Women lack support and financing to be able to conduct their own election campaigns.” (Female, 25)

“Generally, in Tunisia, a man will never accept for his boss to be a woman or even for a woman to occupy a position higher than his. He will not accept the idea that a woman is his superior and controlling him. Men need to get rid of the idea that the place of a woman is at home. For me, the greatest obstacles are the norms and customs, including the male mentality.” (Female, 29).

Detailed Methodology

Primary Sampling Unit Distribution of Geographical Regions (Governorates)

Tunis	10.1%	Mahdia	3.3%
Ariana	6.2%	Kairouan	4.5%
Ben Arous	5.8%	Sidi Bouzid	3.5%
Manouba	3.3%	Kasserine	4.1%
Nabeul	9.9%	Zaghouan	1.4%
Bizerte	7.8%	Sfax	7.8%
Jandouba	3.3%	Gabes	2.8%
Kef	2.0%	Medenine	3.8%
Siliana	2.1%	Tataouine	1.4%
Béja	2.4%	Gafsa	3.3%
Sousse	5.1%	Tozeur	.7%
Monastir	4.4%	Kebili	1.1%

Demographics

Gender	
Male	49.9%
Female	50.1%

Age	
18-34	47.6%
35-49	26.7%
50+	25.7%

Urban/Rural	
Urban	66%
Rural	34%

Education	
Illiterate	8.1%
Can read and write	2.2%
Basic education	20.1%
Secondary education	19.6%
College/University	22.8%
Post bachelor degree (MA, PhD)	2.7%

Income (GDP per capita 4,316.69 USD)	
No answer/Don't know	.5%
Below average	22.6%
Average	66.3%
Above Average	10.6%



مَعْهَدُ الْقِيَادَاتِ النِّسَائِيَّةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ
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