



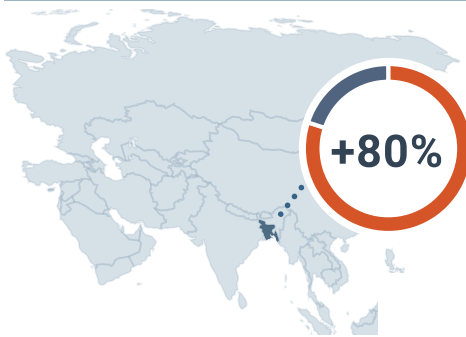
## Democracy and Sharia in Bangladesh: Surveying Support

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of findings from the RESOLVE Network's 2016-2017 Bangladesh Research Initiative. As part of the Initiative, RESOLVE conducted a nationwide survey of 4,067 Bangladeshi respondents enumerated in April 2017. The survey included questions about three high-profile events of domestic extremist violence in the past twelve years, as well as key democratic principles, such as elected representatives, an independent judiciary, freedoms of speech and assembly, and property rights. Findings derived from the survey regarding democracy, governance, and Sharia provide insight into the depth of support for democracy among Bangladeshis, the values they attach to democracy, their perception of the current state of governance, and whether they view Sharia as an alternative to the common law legal system.

To learn more about the research methodology and longer form findings, please refer to this fact sheet's companion RESOLVE Research Brief: *Democracy and Sharia in Bangladesh: Surveying Support*.

### Democracy and Sharia in Bangladesh:

A face-to-face representative survey of 4,067 households in Bangladesh



of respondents agreed with the statements that Sharia would ensure:



Basic service provision



Personal security



Discourage corruption



Justice

### Divergent Views



Male respondents placed greater importance on democratic values.



Support for Sharia was notably stronger in rural areas and among women.



With respect to wearing the veil, hijab, or niqab, women almost unanimously supported their right to make choices about what they wore.

### Education



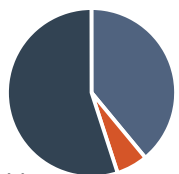
Support for democracy and elected leaders increased with greater educational attainment.



Those with higher levels of education were less likely to support the harsh physical punishments associated with Sharia.

### Preference for Elected Leadership

**55%** expressed a strong preference for democratic, secular leadership.



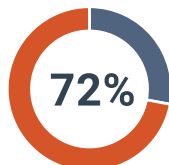
**39%** voiced support for a democratically elected religious leader

### Doubts about Elected Representatives



Nearly one-third of the respondents who valued living in a democratically governed country believed the country is not actually governed by those they elected.

### Views on Military versus Civilian Rule



of respondents said that they supported either complete or significant civilian control over the military.

### Support for a Legal System Based on Sharia



Just over **77%** agreed there should be a much larger role or a somewhat larger role for Sharia

### Perceived Association between Sharia and Good Governance



On average, **70%** of the respondents believed that Sharia uses harsh punishments to ensure obedience to the law.



About **78%** believed that Sharia would make it mandatory for women to wear a veil, hijab, or niqab.

## Good Governance is Critical

Findings from RESOLVE's research indicate that Bangladeshis unequivocally support the principles and values of democratic governance and need to see those values reflected in their interactions with state and party apparatuses. However, the research also indicated that the perceived gap between the theory and practice of democracy is encouraging citizens to look for alternatives to promote good governance, prevent corruption, and limit partisanship. Efforts to augment the rule of law and address issues of concern to Bangladeshi citizens is needed to ensure that citizens feel safe, secure, and fully represented by their government bodies.

**RESOLVE**  
NETWORK

The RESOLVE Network is a global consortium of researchers and research organizations committed to delivering fresh insight into the drivers of violent extremism around the world. The Network provides access to open-source data, tools, and curated research to ensure policy responses to violent extremism are evidence based.

RESOLVE's four key themes of focus arose from our text mining literature review of over 3000 articles related to the study of CVE and political violence. For more on our themes of focus, the Network, our partners and how to get involved visit our website, [www.resolvenet.org](http://www.resolvenet.org), and follow us on Twitter: @resolvenet.



POLITICAL VIOLENCE



GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY



IDEOLOGY



INTERVENTION DEMOGRAPHICS