Freedom perception among Russian Population

RUSSIAN CITIZENS ON INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, STATE AND SOCIETY

Presentation of the Opinion Poll results conducted between 31st July and 15th August, 2017 among the population of the Russian Federation
Does your life mostly depend on you personally, on the state or on other people?

- On me personally: 68%
- On the state: 20%
- On other people: 7%
- Don't know/No answer: 5%

Do you think that the Russian state interferes or doesn't interfere in the private life of its citizens?

- Doesn't interfere: 64%
- Interferes: 25%
- Don't know/No answer: 11%
In your opinion, who should provide care for the elderly: the state, children/relatives or they should care for themselves?

- **State**: 43%
- **Children/relatives**: 39%
- **Elderly themselves**: 8%
- **Other**: 7%
- **Don’t know/No answer**: 3%

People protect their interests in different ways. Which of the following do you find the most efficient in Russia?

- **File a lawsuit in court or public prosecution office**: 26%
- **Address the President of the Russian Federation**: 23%
- **Publications in mass media, forums or social media**: 11%
- **Appeal to human rights organisations**: 11%
- **Participation in protests and demonstrations**: 2%
- **Other**: 5%
- **None of the above**: 14%
- **Don’t know/No answer**: 8%
A man finds an invitation to a residents' meeting in his mailbox that relates to a wheelchair ramp installation in the house. To participate in the meeting, he needs to take a day off from his work. He thinks that this issue can be resolved without his participation and does not attend the meeting. Do you agree or disagree with his decision?

- Yes, I agree: 53%
- No, I disagree: 43%
- Don't know/No answer: 4%
Parents have learned that one of the best teachers at school is homosexual. The parents' committee insisted that the teacher shouldn't teach anymore. Do you agree or do you disagree with the decision of the parents' committee?

- 73% Yes, I agree
- 23% No, I disagree
- 4% Don't know/No answer
DIFFERENT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND FREEDOM IN DIFFERENT WAYS. WHAT DOES FREEDOM MEAN TO YOU?

Freedom is my personal opinion, when it is not violated by anything.

Female, 29 years old

Two days off, an 8-hour working day. This is what is called freedom. When you work and get paid, get your 25 days vacation, as it used to be before. When people know what's coming next. Now nobody knows what to expect. Tomorrow everything can be different.

Male, 57 years old

Freedom for us... It seems to me that we live in absolute freedom... Living on our land, growing whatever we want. Rely on ourselves. Do we need any other kind of freedom?

Female, 62 years old

Freedom... Is that we live in a democracy. Is this freedom? Yes, it is. Everything is fine and good in our country.

Female, 75 years old

Freedom? Home, family, work.

Male, 27 years old
WHAT DOES FREEDOM MEAN TO YOU?

There is no such thing as absolute freedom.  
Female, 20 years old

Living a law-obedient life. Freedom is living within the limits of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.  
Male, 32 years old

Not being afraid of expressing your opinion. Not being afraid of tomorrow. Not being afraid of living in Russia. Not being afraid of going to work. To be able to raise children and take them to school without any worries.  
Female, 47 years old

Freedom? I don’t know what to tell you in this regard.  
Female, 54 years old

Freedom is confidence in your future. It is when all my thoughts and wishes are, a priori, right and fair, if they don’t contradict with the Criminal and Administrative Code.  
Male, 35 years old

- Having your personal opinion and not being afraid of expressing it: 3%
- Abiding the law (including by the state): 1%
- Not being in jail: 0.9%
- Work availability and accessibility, income: 0.8%
- Non-interference in personal affairs (including from the state): 4%
- Not depending on anything or anybody: 5%
- No limits, restrictions or coercion: 1%
- Any kind of action that is lawful, moral and normal: 3%
In your opinion, the majority of the Russian population lives by the law or rather by informal rules, personal agreements?

56% Rather by informal rules, personal agreements
34% Rather by the law
10% Don't know/No answer

Do you personally live rather by the law or rather by informal rules, personal agreements?

77% Rather by the law
17% Rather by informal rules, personal agreements
6% Don't know/No answer
A woman takes a business trip. She is late for her flight because of a traffic jam and she violates traffic rules. The police stops her and starts preparing official documentation. In order to get through the whole process faster, the woman decides to bribe the police and escape time-consuming documentary routine. Do you agree or disagree with her decision?

I agree: 35%
I disagree: 60%
Don't know/No answer: 5%
An activist shows up at your doorstep, asking to sign a petition. According to it, the city administration should obligate all businesses to give priority to local residents when hiring. Non-residents should only be hired when no local specialists with necessary skills and qualification are available. Would you sign such a petition?

- Yes, I would sign: 66%
- No, I would not sign: 31%
- Don’t know/No answer: 3%
Parents have learned that a boy from a migrant family who barely knows the language of tuition is being transferred to their kid's class. In the opinion of parents, this will slow down the education process. Therefore they insist that such a transfer should not take place. Do you agree or disagree with the decision of the parents?

74% Yes, I agree
21% No, I disagree
5% Don't know/No answer
Some think that limiting foreign companies' presence in the Russian market would promote economic development. Others support the opposite view: the more foreign companies there are in Russia, the better it is for the Russian economy. Which point of view do you agree with – the first or the second?

- With the first: limiting the presence of foreign companies: 36%
- With the second – the more foreign companies, the better: 52%
- Difficult to answer: 12%

Do you consider import restrictions on foreign goods useful or not useful?

- Yes, it's useful: 58%
- No, it is not useful: 33%
- Don't know/No answer: 9%
A man sells wooden toys for children at a small kiosk near the train station. The toys are very cheap, but they were manufactured abroad. The government decides to raise import duties for children toys coming from abroad in order to support domestic manufacturers. Do you agree or disagree with the government’s decision?

I agree: 68%
I disagree: 26%
Don’t know/No answer: 6%
Do you think that the mass media should always be controlled by the government, should be controlled only in special cases, e.g., for security reasons, or should be absolutely free?

- Should be totally free: 26%
- Should be controlled only in special circumstances (for example, for security reasons): 40%
- Should be under state control: 30%
- Don’t know / No answer: 4%
An employee actively comments on publications on the Internet criticising the state. His manager fears that these comments could lead to difficulties for the whole company. Therefore he asks to delete all relevant comments. Do you agree or disagree with the manager?

I agree

I disagree

Don't know/ No answer

53%

38%

9%
While researching family history, a famous journalist stumbled upon documents that prove that his grandfather was involved in the execution of prisoners. The journalist told his grandmother about it. She asked to destroy the documents and forget all about it in order to save the family from shame. Anyhow, an article was published. Do you agree or disagree with the journalist’s decision to publish the article regardless of his grandmother's will?

I disagree  
I agree  
Don't know/No answer
Do you believe that it is important or not for the majority of Russians that there should be democracy in Russia, or they don’t care?

- 50% Important
- 13% Don’t care
- 5% Not important
- 32% Don’t know/No answer

Is it important or not for you personally that there should be democracy in Russia, or you don’t care?

- 64% Important
- 8% Not important
- 22% Don’t care
- 6% Don’t know/No answer

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**Friedrich Naumann Stiftung**

**ASPIRATIONS, EXPECTATIONS, FUTURE**
Do you think the following events are likely to happen in Russia in the next 5 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Rather likely</th>
<th>Rather unlikely</th>
<th>Don't know/No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many people will lose their job</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life will become more stable</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interethnic conflicts will escalate</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There will be less aggression</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise in terrorist activities (explosions, arsons, kidnappings etc.)</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There will be more order and justice</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
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