



# Executive Summary –

## Attitudes in the Catholic world towards damage to children and young people from LGBT stigma

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On behalf of Equal Future 2018

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**Fieldwork: 21<sup>st</sup> September – 11<sup>th</sup>  
December**

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**Equal Future**

## Executive Summary of Key Findings:

### Introduction

This Key Findings report is based on the results from Equal Future 2018 ‘Attitudes in the Catholic world towards damage to children and young people from LGBT stigma’ survey; fieldwork was mainly undertaken between 21<sup>st</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, with a rerun in France conducted 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The survey questions were asked to representative samples of adult respondents in US, France, Italy, Spain, Philippines, Brazil, Columbia and Mexico. The surveys were conducted online<sup>1</sup>. All adults surveyed in this report were aged 18 or over.

### Sample

YouGov reached representative samples in the above 8 countries, being the eight countries of the world with the largest populations of baptized Roman Catholics, and between them representing in total approximately 50% of the world’s baptized Roman Catholic population.<sup>2</sup> Due to global differences in demographic profiles and internet penetrations, relevant quotas and definitions were agreed and set up when sampling. The US, Spain, France and Italy were nationally representative, the Philippines was representative of the online population of adults, and Brazil, Colombia and Mexico were nationally representative, amongst respondents who were mainly from urban areas. All surveys were conducted using an online interview administered to members of the YouGov panel of individuals, or those of their panel partners, who had agreed to take part in surveys. The pre-selected respondents were emailed and invited to take part in the survey and, according to the responses received, a small weighting factor was applied to address any imbalances in the sample at the analysis stage for each market. In total, 9,615 respondents were surveyed across all markets. Any calculations were rounded to the nearest whole number.

### Background

The survey was conducted by YouGov on behalf of the Equal Future 2018 Campaign to investigate people’s attitudes to damage to children and young people from LGBT stigma, the impact of the Catholic Church’s teachings on the issue, and whether the Catholic Church should reconsider its teaching in relation to LGBT in order to support children/ young people. The overall aim of the Equal Future 2018 Campaign is to raise awareness of the damage to children when they are given the sense that to be LGBT would be a misfortune or a disappointment, to change behaviour and to help the leadership of the Catholic Church understand the issue more thoroughly at their global meeting in October 2018, the ‘Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment’.

For the purposes of the research, the phrase LGBT was explained to stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, as a phrase to describe people’s sexual orientation or gender identity. For all questions, respondents were given the opportunity to prefer not to answer.

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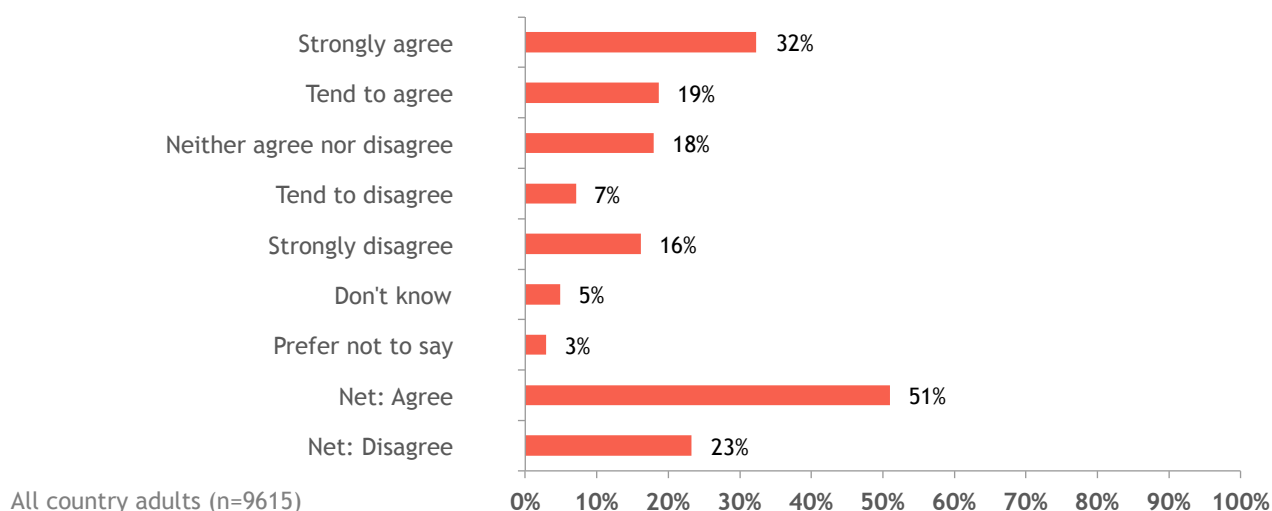
<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that YouGov is an online research agency and all of our respondents are regular Internet users.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Vatican

## Key Findings

*“It could be damaging to a child/ young person's mental health and well-being if they felt that being LGBT was a misfortune or disappointment.”*

- **Just over half (51%) of all global adults surveyed agreed with this statement, while 23% disagreed.**
  - In every individual market, the proportion agreeing with this statement exceeded the number disagreeing.
  - Looking specifically at 18-29 year olds, 56% agreed with this compared to 49% of adults aged 30+ in these markets.



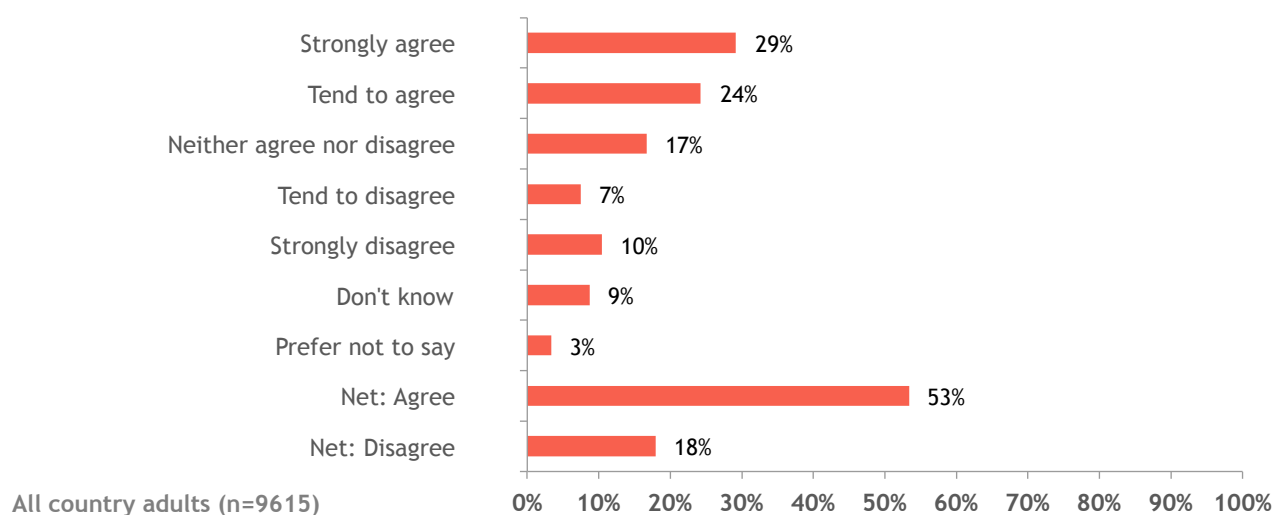
- Men and women were similarly likely to agree to this statement at 49% and 53% respectively.
- **Comparing the proportions of agreement with the general population against Baptised Catholics and Practising Catholics, all three groups were more likely to agree than disagree with this statement.**
  - Across all markets, baptised Roman Catholics and practising Roman Catholics were more likely to agree with this statement than disagree;

	GENERAL POPULATION		BAPTISED ROMAN CATHOLICS		PRACTISING ROMAN CATHOLICS	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
<b>GLOBAL</b>	51%	23%	52%	25%	50%	26%
<b>US</b>	54%	16%	58%	14%	51%	15%
<b>FRANCE</b>	41%	25%	43%	27%	42%	24%
<b>ITALY</b>	43%	32%	43%	32%	41%	31%
<b>SPAIN</b>	57%	24%	58%	25%	54%	25%
<b>BRAZIL</b>	50%	24%	51%	25%	48%	27%
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	47%	32%	47%	32%	44%	36%
<b>MEXICO</b>	49%	26%	49%	27%	48%	27%
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	62%	17%	65%	17%	66%	18%

Respondents were then asked to think about the current teachings of the Catholic Church specifically on LGBT issues and people, before being asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following statements;

*“The Catholic Church's current teaching on LGBT issues could cause a child/ young person to feel that being LGBT is a misfortune or disappointment.”*

- **Just over half (53%) of all global adults surveyed agreed with this statement, while 18% disagreed.**
  - Again, in every individual market, the proportion agreeing with this statement exceeded the number disagreeing.
  - Looking specifically at 18-29 year olds, 59% agreed with this compared to 52% of adults aged 30+ in these markets.
  - Men and women were similarly likely to agree to this statement at 53% and 54% respectively.

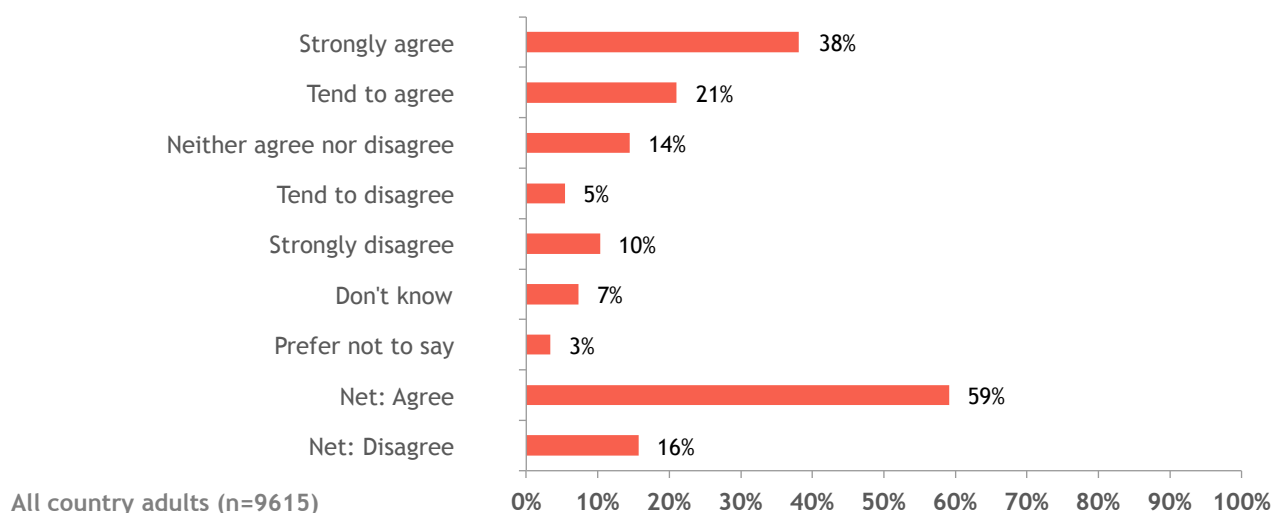


- **More people who identified as baptised Catholics were more likely to agree than practicing Catholics in each market. Globally, this was a gap of 7 percentage points (56% and 49% respectively).**
  - The largest gap was in Spain, with a 19 percentage point difference between baptised Catholics who agreed (70%) and practising Catholics who agreed (50%).
  - Across all markets, respondents were more likely to agree with this statement than disagree in these groups;

	GENERAL POPULATION		BAPTISED ROMAN CATHOLICS		PRACTISING ROMAN CATHOLICS	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
<b>GLOBAL</b>	53%	18%	56%	20%	49%	25%
<b>US</b>	49%	14%	53%	17%	40%	26%
<b>FRANCE</b>	46%	15%	48%	17%	43%	19%
<b>ITALY</b>	57%	17%	59%	17%	49%	22%
<b>SPAIN</b>	68%	13%	70%	14%	50%	26%
<b>BRAZIL</b>	44%	27%	45%	29%	38%	37%
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	54%	24%	54%	24%	51%	28%
<b>MEXICO</b>	61%	18%	62%	18%	59%	21%
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	53%	20%	54%	21%	51%	24%

*"The Catholic Church should reconsider its current teaching on LGBT issues to help support the mental health and well-being of children and young people."*

- **Nearly 6 in 10 (59%) of all global adults surveyed agreed with this statement, while 16% disagreed.**
  - Looking specifically at 18-29 year olds, 61% agreed with this compared to 58% of adults aged 30+ in these markets.
  - Women across were more likely to agree with this than men globally (62% vs 56% respectively)



- Across all markets, respondents were more likely to agree with this statement than disagree in these groups;

	GENERAL POPULATION		BAPTISED ROMAN CATHOLICS		PRACTISING ROMAN CATHOLICS	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
<b>GLOBAL</b>	59%	16%	65%	15%	63%	16%
<b>US</b>	45%	21%	49%	24%	39%	31%
<b>FRANCE</b>	55%	10%	60%	11%	47%	20%
<b>ITALY</b>	66%	13%	67%	14%	63%	15%
<b>SPAIN</b>	75%	8%	77%	7%	68%	12%
<b>BRAZIL</b>	55%	23%	59%	22%	60%	21%
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	66%	18%	66%	18%	66%	19%
<b>MEXICO</b>	68%	14%	71%	13%	71%	12%
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	64%	10%	68%	10%	70%	8%

- **In conclusion, in all three groups we focused on in this summary, across all markets in this study, respondents were more likely to agree with the statements presented to them around LGBT stigma and the Catholic Church's current teachings, than disagree.**

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 9,615 adults – 2,521 in the US, 1,022 in France, 1,018 in Italy, 1,006 in Spain, 1,013 in Brazil, 1,003 in Mexico, 1,007 in Colombia and 1,025 in the Philippines. Total fieldwork was undertaken between 21<sup>st</sup> Sept – 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults (aged 18+) in each country.