



MEDIA RELEASE

Findings of Poll on Watain Concert

1 April 2019 - 2 in 3 who were aware, agreed with Government's decision to disallow the concert. But in general, the majority of those polled also agreed with the content regulation approach of disallowing offensive content in performances that may impact religious sensitivities rather than stopping the performances altogether.

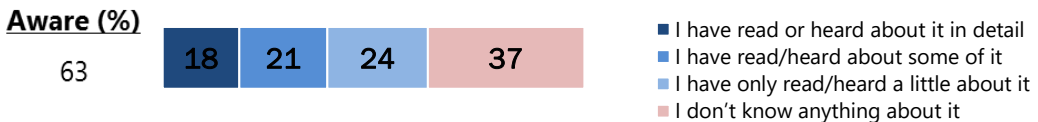
To better gauge public awareness and understand sentiments on the Government's decision to disallow the concert of the Swedish metal band, Watain, in the interest of public order, religious and social harmony, REACH conducted a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) poll from **11 to 15 March 2019**.

2 About 680 respondents were polled. Respondents were randomly selected Singapore citizens aged 15 and above. The estimated margin of error is 3.8% at a 95% confidence interval. The sample was weighted by gender and age to ensure representativeness of the national population.

Awareness and Sentiments

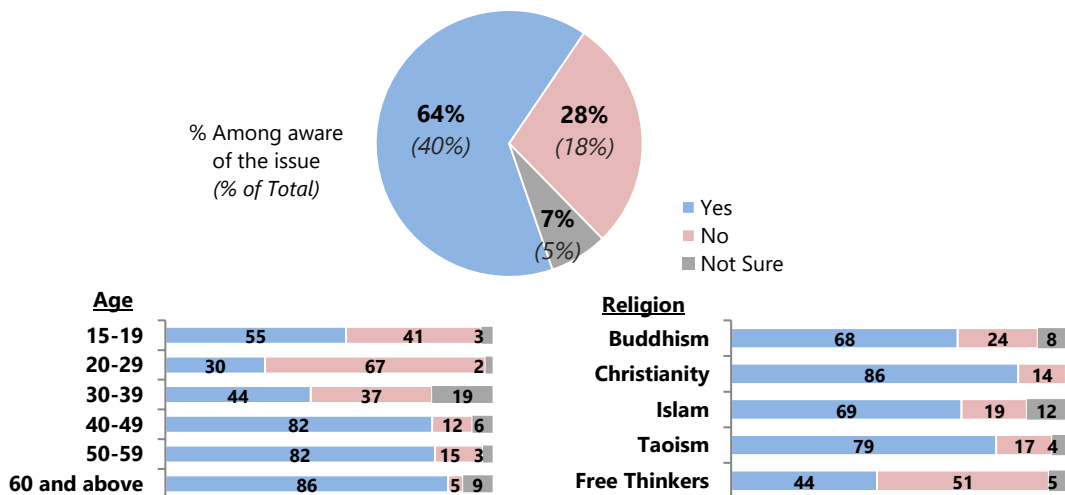
3 Overall, about 60% of the population were aware of the Government's decision to disallow the band's concert.

Which of the following statements best describes your awareness of this issue?



4 Of those who were aware, about 2 in 3 supported the Government's decision to disallow the concert. Younger respondents (in their 20s) and those who indicated that they were freethinkers, were more likely to disagree with the decision to disallow the concert.

I support the Government's decision to disallow the concert.



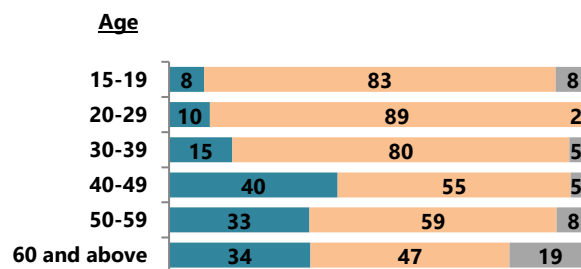


5 About 1 in 4 respondents felt that performances that may impact religious sensitivities in Singapore should be banned, while 2 in 3 felt that they may be allowed, but with specific rules to disallow offensive content. Similarly, younger respondents were more likely to feel that performances that may impact religious sensitivities should be allowed with specific rules attached.

**Which statement best represents your view?
Performances that may impact religious sensitivities in Singapore...**



■ Should be banned ■ May be allowed, but with specific rules to disallow offensive content ■ Not Sure



6 In reviewing the findings of the poll, REACH Chairman, Mr Sam Tan, said: *“It is heartening that the majority of Singaporeans appreciate the importance of respecting religious sensitivities in our multi-racial and multi-religious environment. In light of recent events in New Zealand and other parts of the world, I hope younger Singaporeans understand the delicate balance needed to maintain this place we call home and cherish the peace and harmony that has been built up over the decades.”*

About REACH

REACH (reaching everyone for active citizenry @ home) is the Government’s lead feedback and engagement agency for engaging and connecting with citizens. REACH – part of the Ministry of Communications and Information – is committed to encourage and promote active citizenry through citizen engagement.