

## Parliament Representation

Asked to assess the extent to which they believe Parliament (as the legislative body) represents their interests (see Table 1), the majority of participants 36,8% reported that only sometimes do they think their interests are in fact represented by the Parliament. 23,7% had a more positive assessment suggesting that their interests are generally represented by the Parliament and 2,6% felt that their interests were fully represented. On the other hand, 26,3% of participants felt their interests are generally not represented, while 7,9% said their interests are never represented.

**Table 1:** Interests Represented in Parliament

To what extent do you believe that your interests are represented by the Parliament?	%
My interests are fully represented by the Parliament.	2.6%
My interests are generally represented by the Parliament.	23.7%
My interests are sometimes represented by the Parliament.	36.8%
My interests are generally not represented by the Parliament.	26.3%
My interests are never represented by the Parliament.	7.9%
Don't know/Not sure	2.6%

When asked about the extent to which they believe that their wishes shape the Parliament's actions (see Table 2), very few participants reported positive answers, with 2,6% suggesting that their wishes always shape the Parliament's actions and 5,3% that they generally do so. 28,9% declared that their wishes sometimes shape the Parliament's actions, but 31,6% reported that this does not usually happen. Over a fifth of the respondents (21,1%) said that their wishes never shape the Parliament's actions.

Prompted to mention some of the reasons why their interests are not very well represented by the Parliament, several participants agreed that this was because their interests were minority interests. Some of the participants explained that they are either 'foreigners' or belong to a 'minority speaking language'. Most of the responses, however, lamented the existence of sectional interests. One participant noted that '...politicians are too interested in representing opinions that satisfy their own interests or the interests of the elite - whether that be for money or power', while another agreed that 'the parliament decides on party politics interest, does not care really about people or the good of the country'. Many participants identified alignment with 'party politics' or 'the interests of the party' as a key reason why they feel that their interests are not sufficiently represented in Parliament. In a similar vein, another respondent lamented the 'feeling of powerlessness, because it's generally understood that those that actually want to do public service will never make it to

the positions in which they can (for political/nepotistic reasons). Whichever flavour of political leaning one decides to choose, it's still the same old corrupt Cypriot doctor/lawyer who's only interest is lining their pockets.' Some of the participants who believed that their interested were, to some degree, represented in Parliament, admitted that this was because they were 'lucky to have a good MP from a party I am broadly happy with (but don't belong to) who generally shares my values and concerns'.

**Table 2:** Wishes shaping Parliament Action

To what extent do you believe that your wishes shape the Parliament's actions?	%
My wishes always shape the Parliament's actions.	2.6%
My wishes generally shape the Parliament's actions.	5.3%
My wishes sometimes shape the Parliament's actions.	28.9%
My wishes don't usually shape the Parliament's actions.	31.6%
My wishes never shape the Parliament's actions.	21.1%
Don't know/Not sure	10.5%

Participants were then asked the extent to which they are familiar with current discussions in Parliament (see Table 3), with only 2,6% answering that they are very familiar with them. 21,1% said they were familiar and 36,8% that they were somewhat familiar with such discussions. Other participants reported lower levels of familiarity with discussions currently taking place in Parliament (23,7% saying they are not very familiar and 15,8% reporting no familiarity).

Asked to elaborate on their answers, some participants noted that they felt that 'for a common man it is impossible to shape Parliament actions'. A key problem identified by participants is the lack of accountability and issues of nepotism. In particular, a respondent decried the lack for accountability both domestically and internationally (noting the inability of the International Criminal Court to hold countries to account for their behaviour). One solution a participant detects is the use of 'statements, petitions, proposals, complaints, letters' to 'local, governmental, and parliamentary authorities' so as to ensure that there is a written record of popular wishes and desires. But, even in such a case, the participant continued, it is likely that 'they stayed unprocessed and unanswered quite often'.

**Table 3:** Familiarity with Parliament discussions

To what extent are you familiar with the discussions currently taking place in Parliament?	%
I am very familiar with the discussions taking place in Parliament.	2.6%
I am familiar with the discussions taking place in Parliament.	21.1%
I am somewhat familiar with the discussions taking place in Parliament.	36.8%
I am not very familiar with the discussions taking place in Parliament.	23.7%
I am not familiar with the discussions taking place in Parliament.	15.8%

As Tables 4a and 4b below indicate, the majority of participants (73,7%) have never contacted a Member of Parliament, while of those who did contact a Member of Parliament, half reported that they received no response.

**Table 4a:** Contacting MP

Have you ever contacted a Member of Parliament?	%
Yes	23.7%
No	73.7%
I do not wish to answer this question	2.6%

**Table 4b:** MP Response

Did they respond?	%
Yes	10.5%
No	13.2%
Missing	76.3%