

Taking Cases to Court

The following questions sought to measure citizens' access to courts and engagement with the justice system. When asked whether taking a case to court would be an effective way to achieve justice (see Table 17), the majority expressed positive views, with half of the participants arguing it would be 'somewhat effective', and 10,5% suggesting it would be 'effective'. Conversely 18,4% of participants thought that taking a case to court would be 'very ineffective', while 10,5% thought it would be 'ineffective'.

Table 17: Effectiveness of courts in securing justice

In the case you are the subject of injustice, to what extent do you think that taking a case to the court will be effective?	%
Effective	10.5%
Somewhat effective	50.0%
Somewhat ineffective	5.3%
Ineffective	10.5%
Very ineffective	18.4%
I do not wish to answer this question	5.3%

The following question sought to determine how easy participants thought it would be to take a case to court (see Table 18). The overwhelming majority (84,3%) agreed that doing so is not easy (23,7% thought it would be 'somewhat difficult', 26,3% that it would be 'difficult', and 34,2% that it would be 'very difficult'. Only 10,6% % of participants thought it would be 'easy' or 'very easy'.

Asked to elaborate on their answers, the majority of participants identified 'lengthy proceedings', 'postponement of cases', and 'time-consuming, tiring' processes as the most significant obstacle to having a case heard in court. The second most popular obstacle identified by participants is the cost of judicial proceedings. Most participants expressed their frustration because these two obstacles seem to them impossible to overcome.

Table 18: Ease of access to courts

In case you think you have been the subject of injustice, to what extent do you think that taking a case to the court will be easy?

	%
Taking a case to court will be very easy.	5.3%
Taking a case to court will be easy.	5.3%
Taking a case to court will be somewhat difficult.	23.7%
Taking a case to court will be difficult.	26.3%
Taking a case to court will be very difficult.	34.2%
Don't know/Not sure	5.3%

When asked whether they had ever thought about pursuing a case in court without eventually doing so, half the participants responded negatively (see Table 19). When asked to elaborate on the reasons for which they decided against resorting to the courts, the majority once again identified the cost and the time it takes to bring a case as the most important obstacles. Other factors that prevented participants from taking a case to the court included 'the complexity of the procedures', the 'low chance of success', the 'fear of retaliation', and the 'lack of transparency'.

Table 19: Taking a case to court

Have you ever thought about pursuing a case in court but eventually decided not to?

	%
Yes	47.4%
No	50.0%
I do not wish to answer this question	2.6%