

# SOCIAL PERCEPTION SURVEY ON LGBTQI+ REPORT



**PREPARED FOR**



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## Table of Contents

<b>Table of Figures .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.0 Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.0 Background and Objectives .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.0 Survey Methodology.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.0 Demographic Distribution .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.0 Survey Results .....</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 Homosexuality and Nature .....	9
5.2 Perception on Sexual Orientation.....	10
5.3 Perception on Sexual Identity .....	11
5.4 Perception on Friends, Neighbours, Acquaintances and Family on Homosexuality .....	12
5.4.1 Perception on Comfortability with a Friend Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	13
5.4.2 Perception on Comfortability with Neighbour Who Identifies as LGBTQ .....	14
5.4.3 Perception on Comfortability Interacting with An Acquaintance Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	15
5.4.4 Perception on Acceptability of a Family Member Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	16
5.5 Perception on the Criminalization of Homosexuality in Nigeria.....	17
5.6 Perception of Someone as Gay .....	18
5.7 Alignment of Sexuality with Personal Beliefs.....	19
5.8 Perception on Punishment for Cross Dressers .....	20
5.9 Perception on Punishment for Being Gay/Lesbian .....	21
5.10 Treatment of Gay People in the Past 5 years .....	22
5.11 Perception on whether the Change was Open to Acceptance .....	23
5.12 Perception On LGBTQI+ Basic Rights .....	24
5.13 Treatment of LGBTQI+ As A Medical Practitioner .....	25
5.14 Perception on LGBTQI+ Acceptance Within family Member .....	25
<b>6.0 Conclusion .....</b>	<b>26</b>
7.0 Appendix – Questionnaires and extra charts.....	27

## Table of Figures

Figure 1: Demographic Distribution.....	8
Figure 2: Demographic Distribution.....	8
Figure 3: Homosexuality and naturality.....	9
Figure 4: Homosexuality and naturality.....	9
Figure 5: Trend on homosexuality and naturality.....	10
Figure 6: Perception on Sexual Orientation.....	10
Figure 7: Perception on Sexual Orientation.....	10
Figure 8: Cross Analysis on Naturality and Sexual Orientation of Homosexuality .....	11
Figure 9: Perception on Sexual Identity.....	11
Figure 10: Perception on Sexual Identity.....	12
Figure 11: Cross Analysis on Naturality and Sexual Identify of Homosexuality.....	12
Figure 12: Perception on Friends, Neighbours, Acquaintances and Family on Homosexuality .....	13
Figure 13: Perception on comfortability with Friend Who Identifies as LGBTQI+.....	13
Figure 14: Perception on comfortability with a Friend Who Identifies as LGBTQI+.....	14
Figure 15: Perception on Comfortability with a Neighbour Who Identifies as LGBTQI+.....	14
Figure 16: Perception on Comfortability with a neighbour Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	15
Figure 17: Perception on Comfortability Interacting with an Acquaintance Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	15
Figure 18: Perception on Comfortability Interacting with an Acquaintance Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	16
Figure 19: Perception On acceptability with a family Member Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	16
Figure 20: Perception On acceptability with a family Member Who Identifies as LGBTQI+ .....	17
Figure 21: Perception on The Criminalization of Homosexuality in Nigeria .....	17
Figure 22: Perception on The Criminalization of Homosexuality in Nigeria .....	18
Figure 23: Cross Analysis on Naturality and Criminalization of Homosexuality .....	18
Figure 24: Perception of Someone as Gay .....	19
Figure 25: Perception of Someone as Gay .....	19
Figure 26: Trend analysis on Perception of Someone as Gay.....	19
Figure 27: Alignment of Sexuality with Personal Belief .....	20
Figure 28: Alignment of Sexuality with Personal Belief .....	20
Figure 29: Perception on Punishment for Cross Dressers .....	21
Figure 30: Perception on Punishment for Cross Dressers .....	21
Figure 31: Perception on Punishment for Being Gay/Lesbian .....	22
Figure 32: Perception on Punishment for Being Gay/Lesbian .....	22
Figure 33: Treatment of Gay People in the Past 5 years .....	22
Figure 34: Treatment of Gay People in the Past 5 years .....	23
Figure 35: Perception on whether Change was Open to Acceptance .....	23
Figure 36: Perception on whether Change was Open to Acceptance .....	24
Figure 37: Perception On LGBTQI+ Basic Rights .....	24
Figure 38: Perception On LGBTQI+ Basic Rights .....	24
Figure 39: Treatment of LGBTQI+ As A Medical Practitioner .....	25
Figure 40: Treatment of LGBTQI+ As A Medical Practitioner .....	25
Figure 41: Perception on LGBTQI+ Acceptance Within family Member.....	26
Figure 42: Perception on LGBTQI+ Acceptance Within family Member.....	26

## 1.0 Executive Summary

The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERS) commissioned NOIPolls to conduct a social perception survey to understand the views of Nigerians regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQI+) persons. TIERS is a Nigeria-based registered non-profit organization whose work is to protect and promote the human rights of sexual minorities within Nigeria and the West Africa sub-region. It was founded in 2005 as a response to the discrimination and marginalization of sexual minorities observed in Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention and human rights work.

The poll result showed that an overwhelming majority of Nigerians nationwide believe that homosexuality is not natural as indicated by 90 percent of the respondents interviewed. This response cuts across gender, geographical locations, and age-groups with a minimum representation of 82 percent. Also, when respondents were asked: do you believe that people are born with their sexual orientation? The findings indicated that 71 percent believe people are not born with their sexual orientation. In the same vein, 71 percent of the respondents nationwide mentioned that they do not believe that individuals can choose their sexual identify or who they feel they are in terms of gender or attraction given this is decided at birth.

Further findings revealed that most Nigerians nationwide disclosed that they would not be comfortable having a friend (91 percent), neighbor (89 percent), family member (92 percent) or interact with an acquaintance (87 percent) who identifies as LGBTQI+ person. With regards to the level of intolerance in identifying with an LGBTQI+, the North West region (93 percent) accounted for the larger share of respondents who feels uncomfortable identifying with a friend, both North West and North East for neighbour at 92 percent each, North East region (93 percent) for acquaintance, and North West region (94 percent) for family. Interestingly, analysis by educational level revealed that those with a high level of intolerance for LGBTQI+ persons in Nigeria are mostly respondents with no formal education with a minimum representation of 98 percent.

Subsequently, respondents were asked if they support the criminalization of homosexuality in Nigeria and the result showed that 66 percent responded in the affirmative. Interestingly, when respondents were asked if they have ever perceived anyone around them as gay and 18 percent said yes. Additionally, when asked: how important is it to you for a person's sexuality to align with your personal beliefs? The poll result showed that 69 percent of the respondents stated that it is crucial for a person's sexuality to align with their belief.

Furthermore, respondents were asked if people who identify as cross dressers should be punished for wearing clothing typically associated with the opposite gender (masculine -presenting individuals wearing dresses or feminine-presenting individuals wearing trousers). The poll result indicated that 67 percent said yes and 82 percent of the respondents from the North West accounted for this assertion. Similarly, 81 percent of the respondents interviewed mentioned that they want people to be punished for being gay and respondents from the North West also accounted for most of this assertion with 88 percent representation.

Interestingly, an overwhelming proportion of the respondents (93 percent) surveyed nationwide revealed that they haven't changed their mind about the treatment of gay people in the past 5 years. Further probe revealed that out of the 93 percent, 58 percent disclosed that they changed their mind with respect to not accepting them while 42 percent stated otherwise. Subsequently, with regards to access to the same basic rights as everyone else, 52 percent believe that they should not have the same basic right while 43 percent stated otherwise.

Consequently, the survey highlighted a scenario in which respondents were asked: if you are a medical practitioner, will you treat a gay person with dignity? The poll findings showed that 64 percent responded in the affirmative while 32 percent said no. lastly, when asked if they will accept a family member if they are gay or lesbian, 71 percent of the respondents said no, while 26 percent answered in the affirmative.





within a range of plus or minus 4.65% of the opinions of the population. The interviews were conducted in English, Pidgin, Hausa, Igbo, or Yoruba. The use of several Nigerian languages reduces the likelihood of a non-response bias.

#### **4.0 Demographic Distribution**

A total of 1,586 respondents were randomly selected for this survey. The survey was administered over the telephone in five languages, using a well-structured questionnaire. The demographic distribution of the respondents was analyzed by the following groups: gender, age-group, geo-political zones, and occupation as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

**Gender:** The proportion of male and female respondents was almost equal with 51 percent and 49 percent respectively.

**Age Group:** The age group with the highest frequency in the survey was 36 – 60 (65 percent) and the lowest age group represented was 60+ (5 percent).

#### **Geo-Political Zone**

All geo-political zones were adequately represented in the survey, the highest represented zone is the North-West zone (24 percent) and the lowest is the South-East zone (12 percent).

**Educational Qualification:** The educational qualification with the highest frequency in the survey was post-secondary (59 percent); followed by completed secondary (27 percent), completed primary (5 percent), incomplete secondary (3 percent) and no education (12 percent). The lowest educational level represented in the survey was incomplete primary school with 1 percent.

**Occupation:** The highest proportion of respondents surveyed were self-employed traders (33 percent); followed by government worker/ Civil servants (16 percent) and professional worker (14 percent). The lowest-represented occupation in the survey was youth corper 1 percent.

**Religion:** Nearly all respondents (99%) affirmed that they identify with a religion. The majority of respondents identified as Christian are 64%, followed by Muslims (35 percent) and 1 percent who refused to disclose their religious affiliation.

## Weighted Socio-Demographic Background of Respondents (N = 1,586)

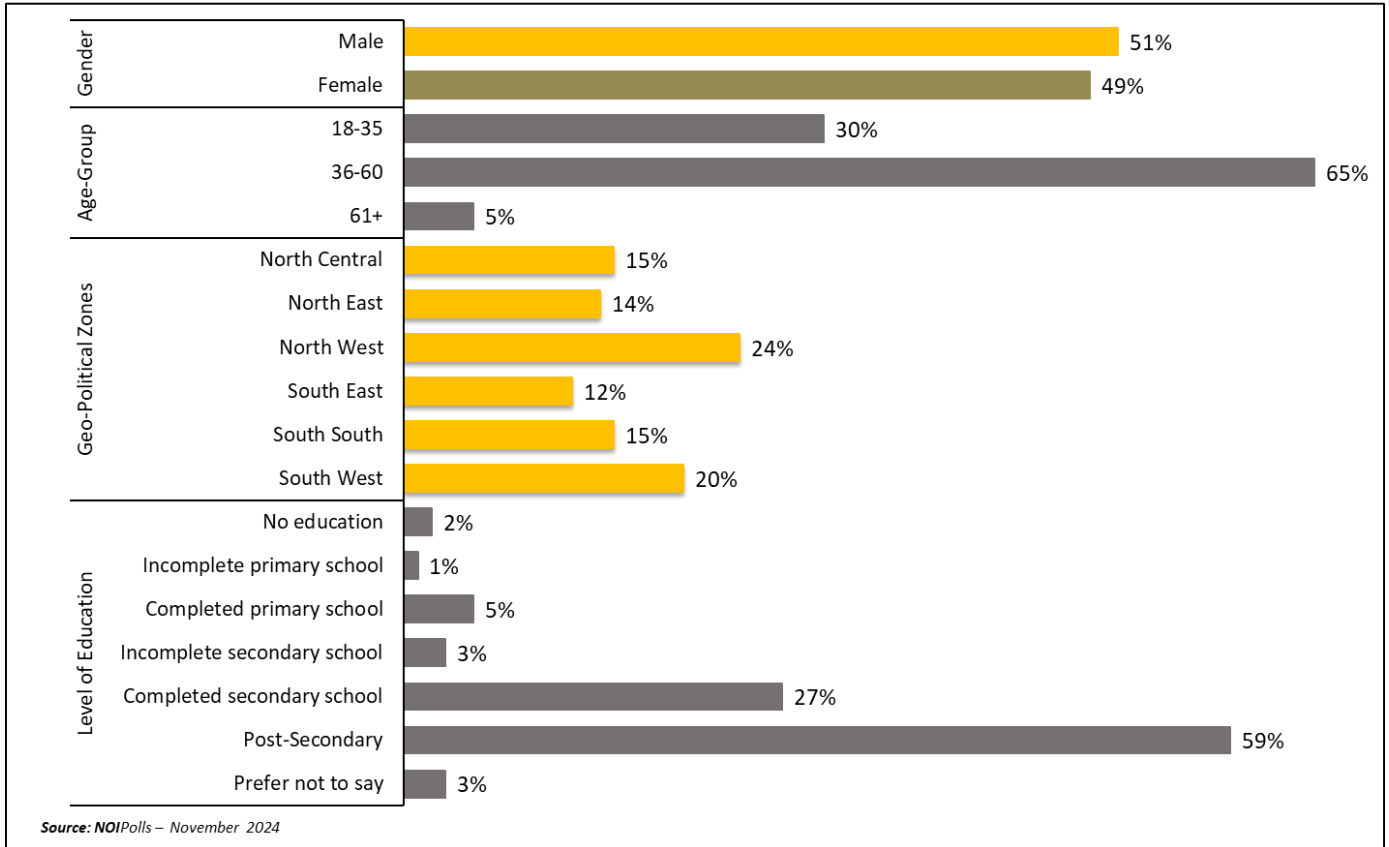


Figure 1: Demographic Distribution

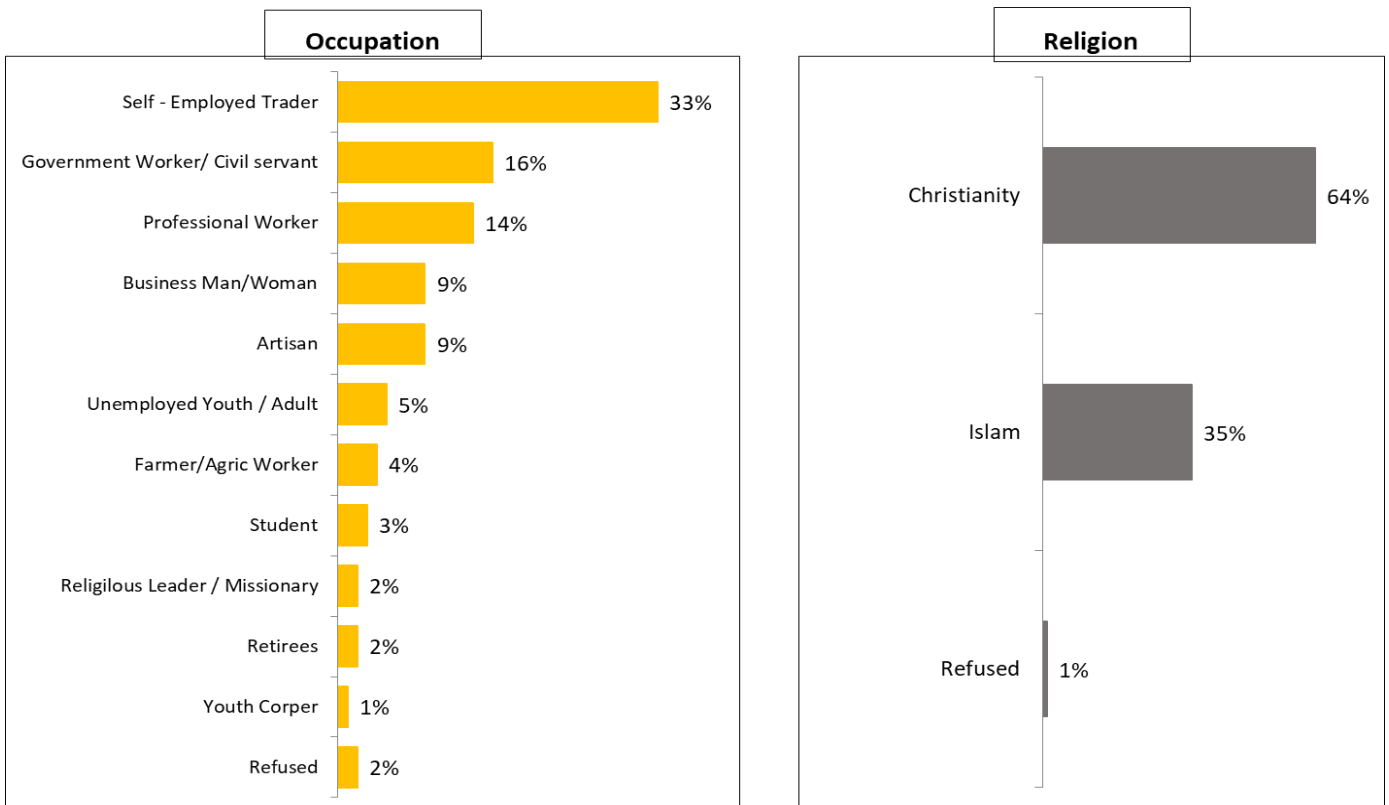


Figure 2: Demographic Distribution



## 5.0 Survey Results

Respondents to the poll were asked fourteen specific questions. This section of the report presents findings from each question.

### 5.1 Homosexuality and Nature

The first question sought to know the perception of Nigerians with regards to the naturality of homosexuality. Thus, respondents were asked: do you believe homosexuality is natural? The poll result showed that 90 percent of the respondents nationwide believe homosexuality is not natural. This response cuts across gender, geographical locations, and age-groups with a minimum representation of 82 percent.

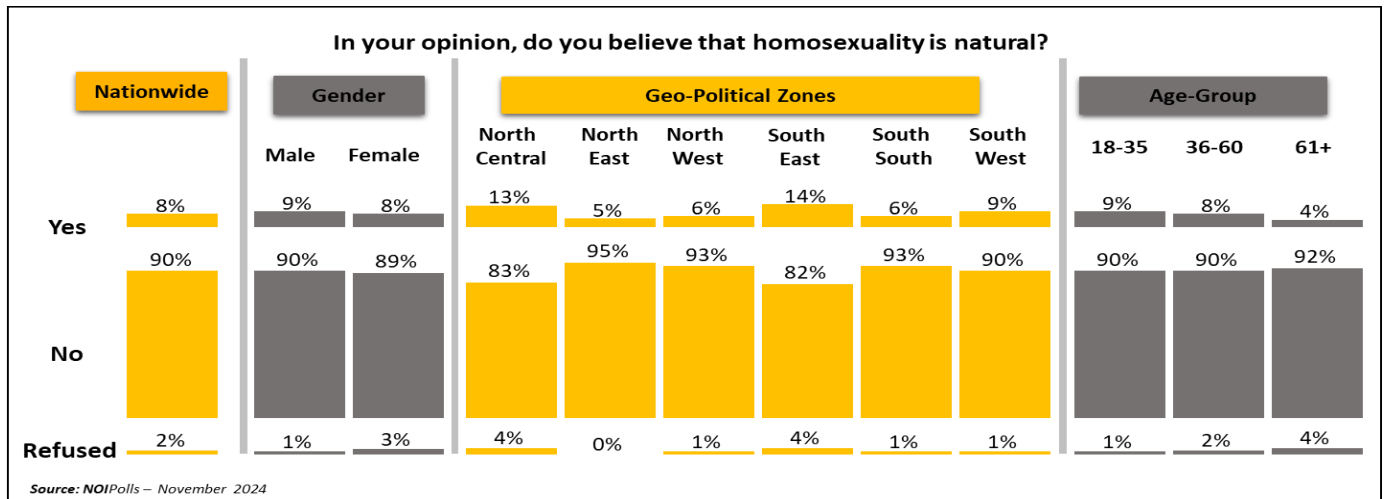


Figure 3: Homosexuality and naturality

Analysis by educational qualification did not reveal any clear differences among the different educational categories.

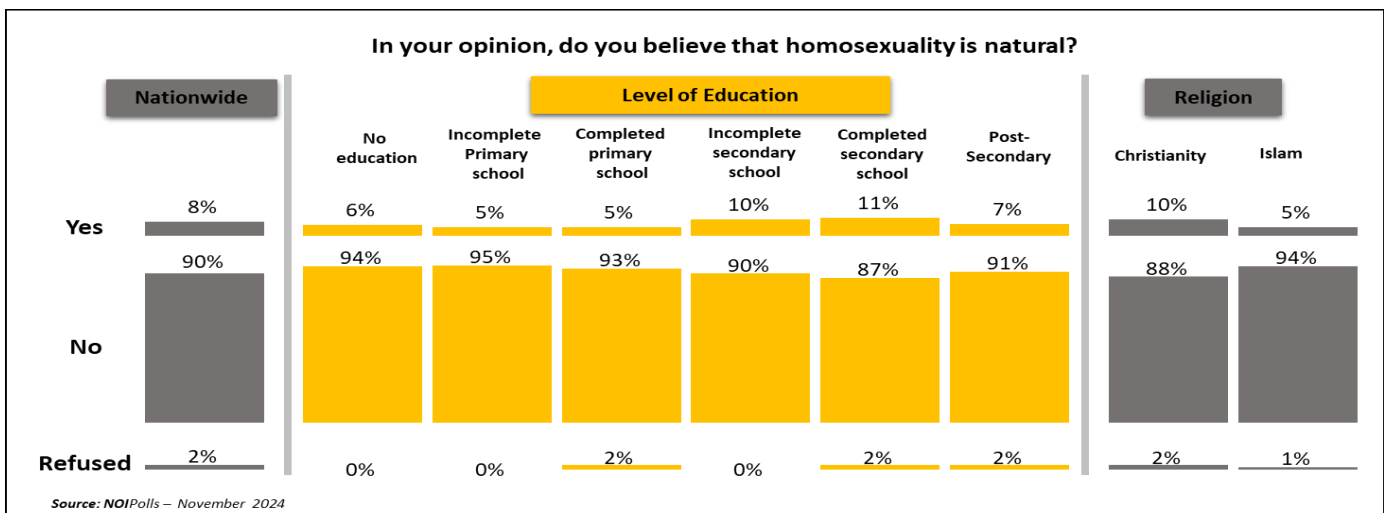


Figure 4: Homosexuality and naturality

A trend analysis shows that there are not clear differences in the result obtained in 2015, 2017 and 2024.

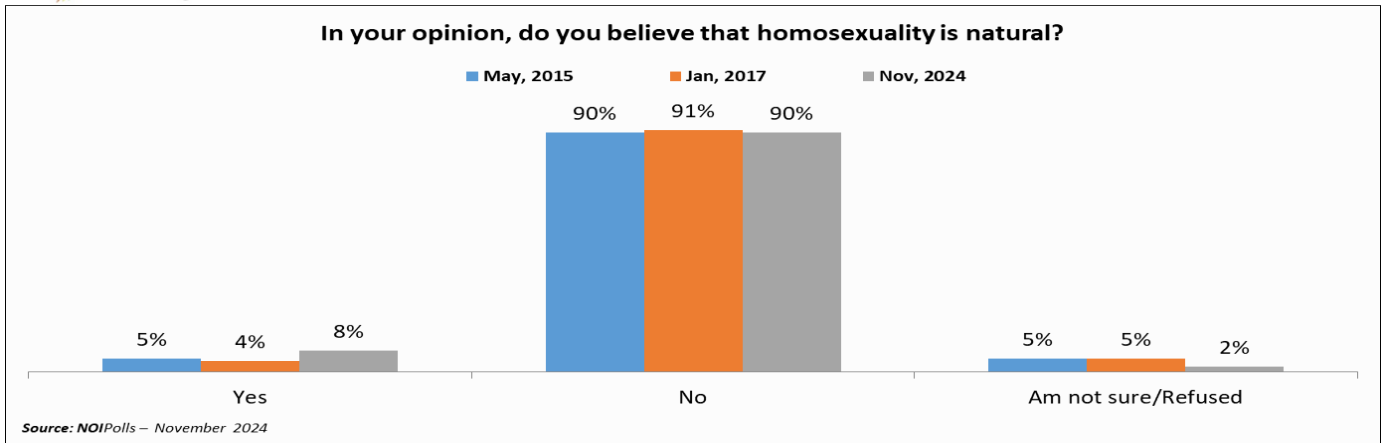


Figure 5: Trend on homosexuality and naturality

## 5.2 Perception on Sexual Orientation

On sexual orientation, 71 percent of the respondents believe that people are not born with their sexual orientation as opposed to 27 percent who answered in the affirmative. Interestingly, North Central (45 percent), North East (37 percent) and South West (29 percent) had respondents who affirmed this question than the general sampled population.

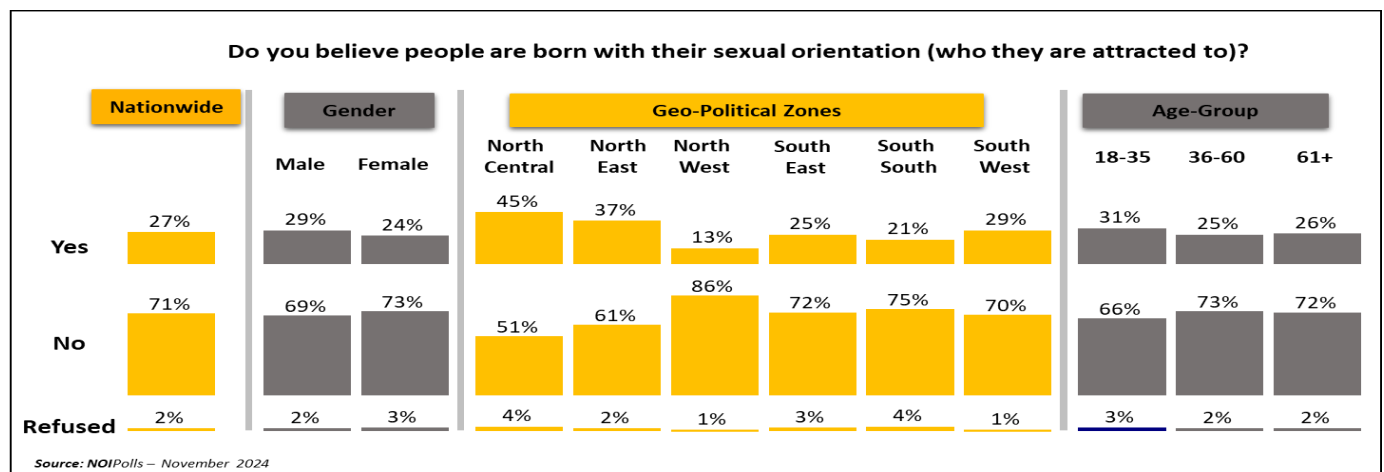


Figure 6: Perception on Sexual Orientation

Analysis by educational level showed that respondents who have no formal education formed the larger share of respondents who believe that people are not born with their sexual orientation.

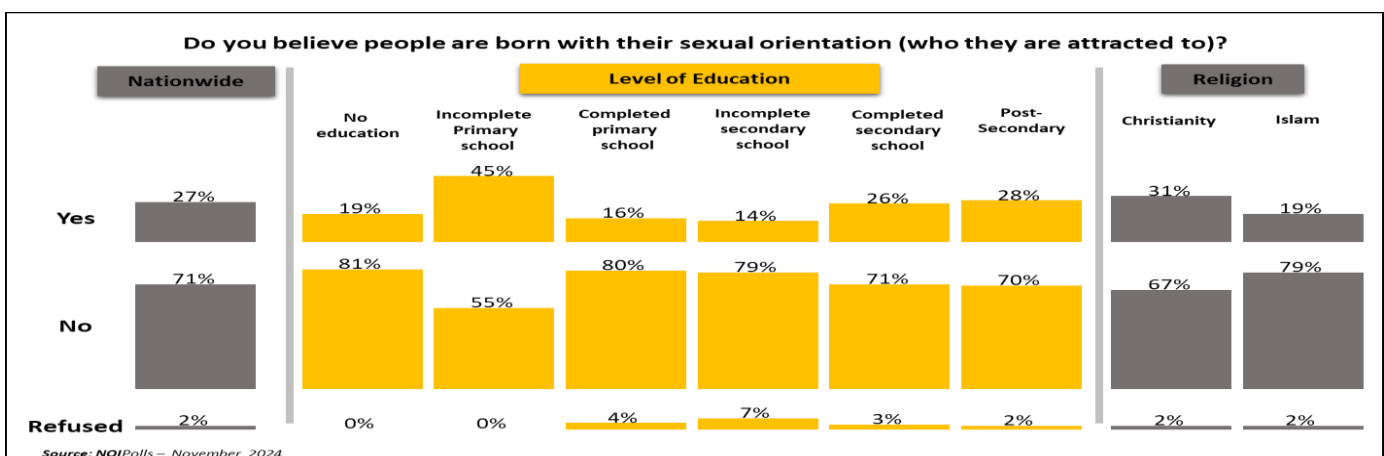


Figure 7: Perception on Sexual Orientation

Further cross analysis showed that out of the respondents who disclosed that homosexuality is not natural, 96 percent also believe that people are not born with their sexual orientation.

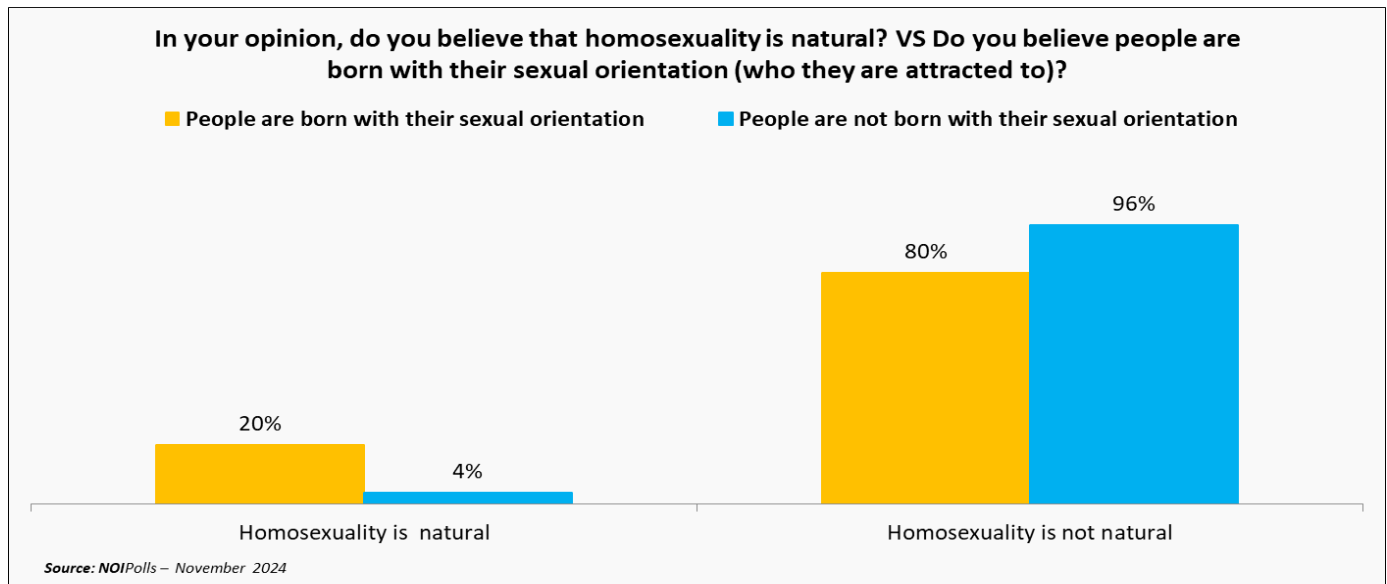


Figure 8: Cross Analysis on Naturality and Sexual Orientation of Homosexuality

### 5.3 Perception on Sexual Identity

Respondents were asked if they believe people can choose their sexual identity (who they feel they are in terms of gender or attraction), the poll result showed that 29 percent answered yes, with young people (33 percent) (18 – 35 years) forming the most opinion. On the flipside, most respondents (69 percent) do not believe that individuals can choose their sexual identity and this cuts across gender, geo-geographical locations and age-groups with at least 63 percent representation.

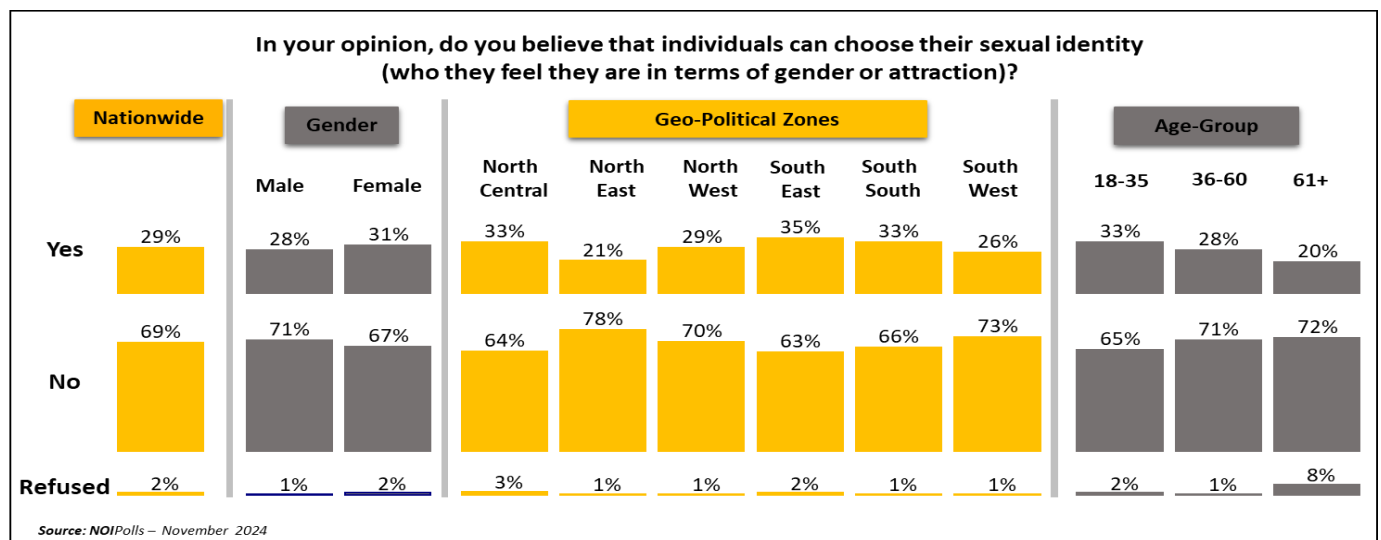


Figure 9: Perception on Sexual Identity

Analysis by educational level showed that respondents with incomplete primary school accounted for the larger share of respondents who do not believe that individuals can choose their sexual identity.

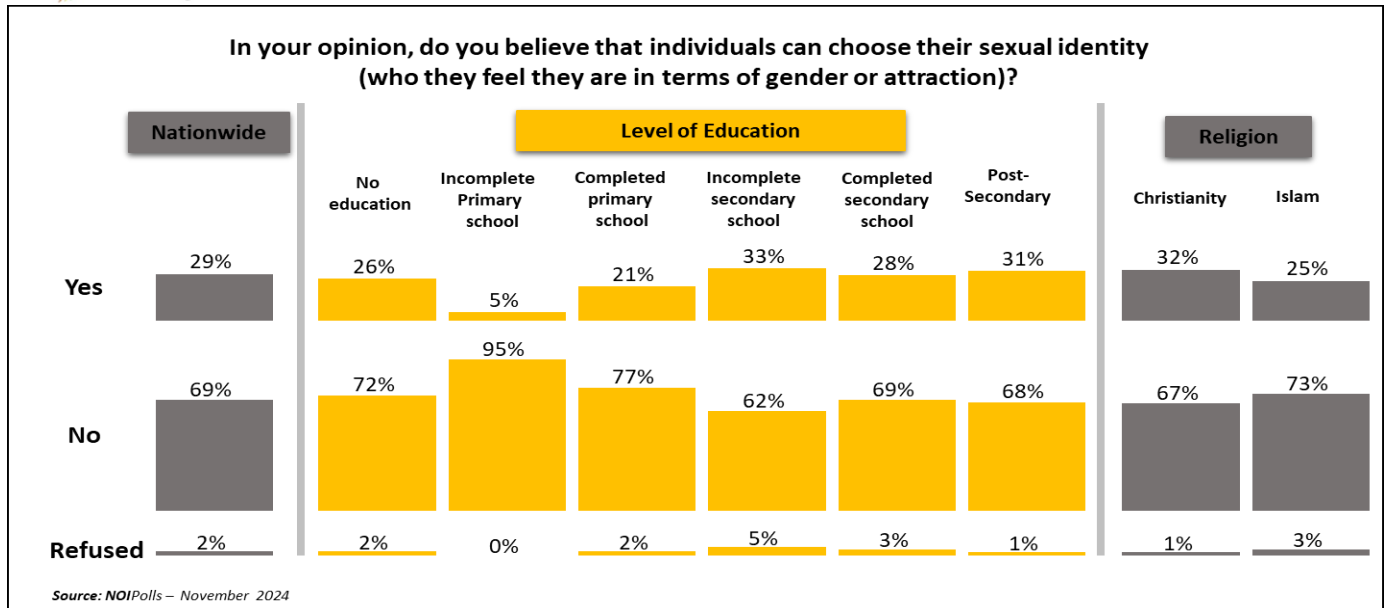


Figure 10: Perception on Sexual Identity

A cross analysis showed that out of the respondents who reported that homosexuality is not natural, 96 percent also believe that individuals cannot choose their sexual identity.

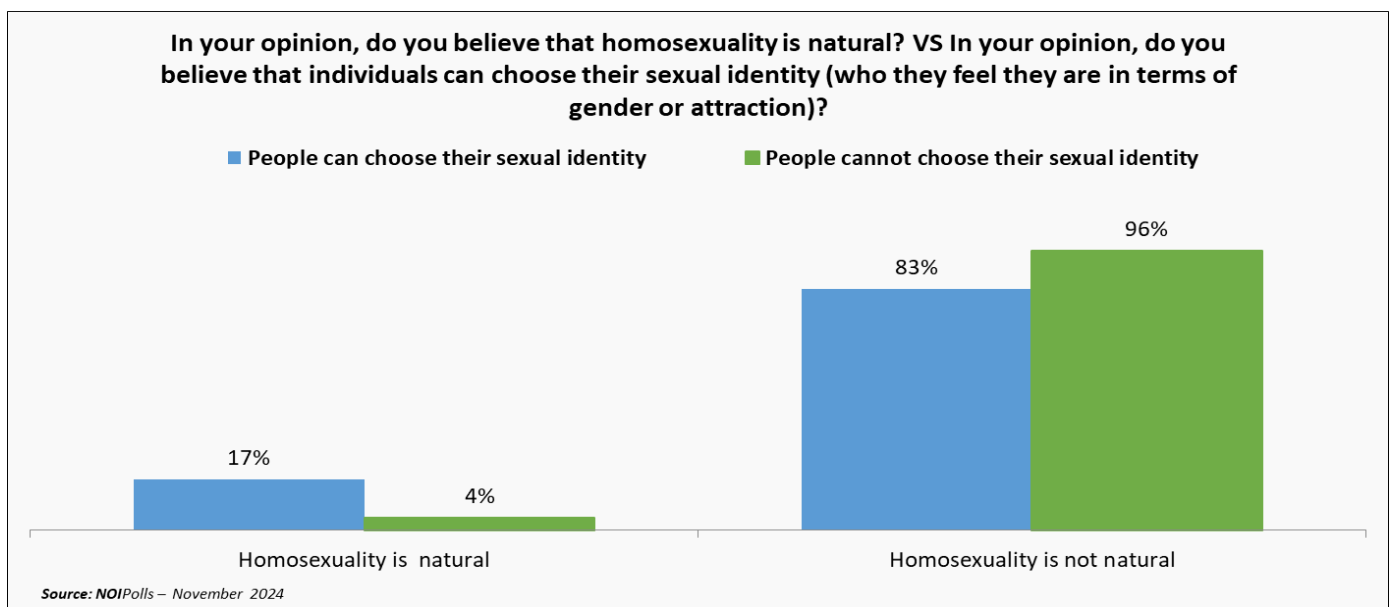
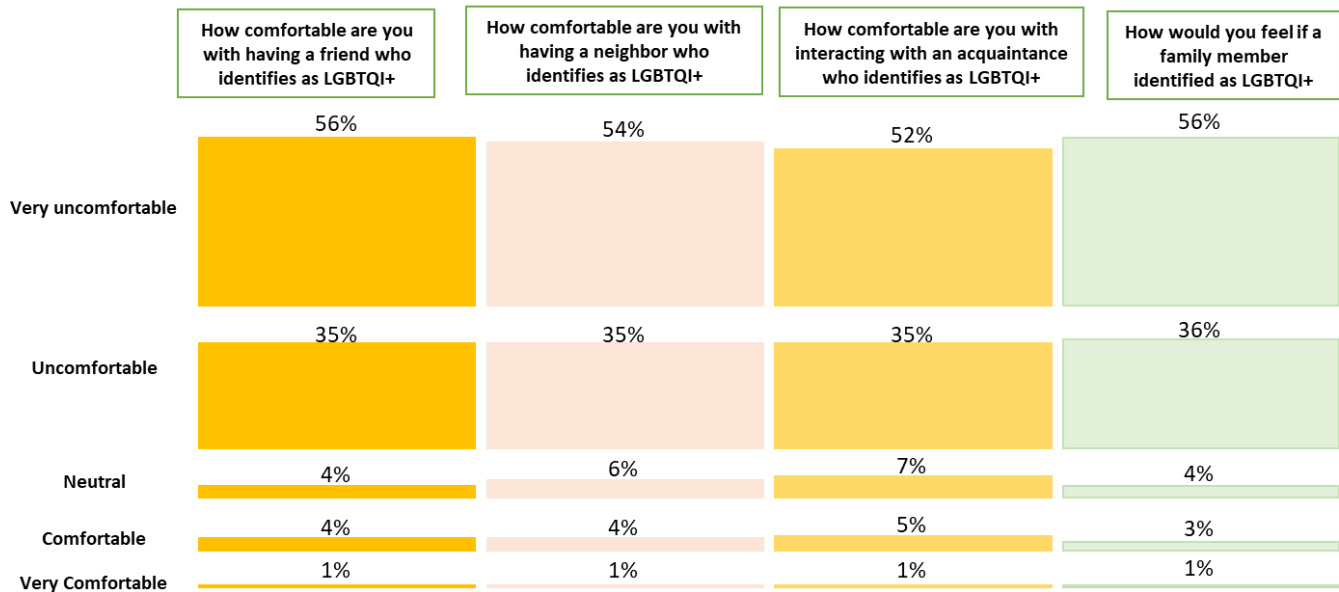


Figure 11: Cross Analysis on Naturality and Sexual Identity of Homosexuality

#### 5.4 Perception on Friends, Neighbours, Acquaintances and Family on Homosexuality

Generally, with regards to being comfortable or uncomfortable with LGBTQI+ people, figure 10 below revealed that most of the respondents disclosed that they would feel uncomfortable if a family member (92 percent) identifies as LGBTQI+ and this is closely followed by respondents who mentioned friends (91 percent). While 89 percent said they would be uncomfortable having a neighbour (89 percent) who identifies as LGBTQI+, 87 percent expressed the same feeling interacting with an acquaintance (87 percent) who identifies as LGBTQI+.

On scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is very uncomfortable and 5 is very comfortable, Which of these statements apply to you in your perception of homosexuals in Nigeria

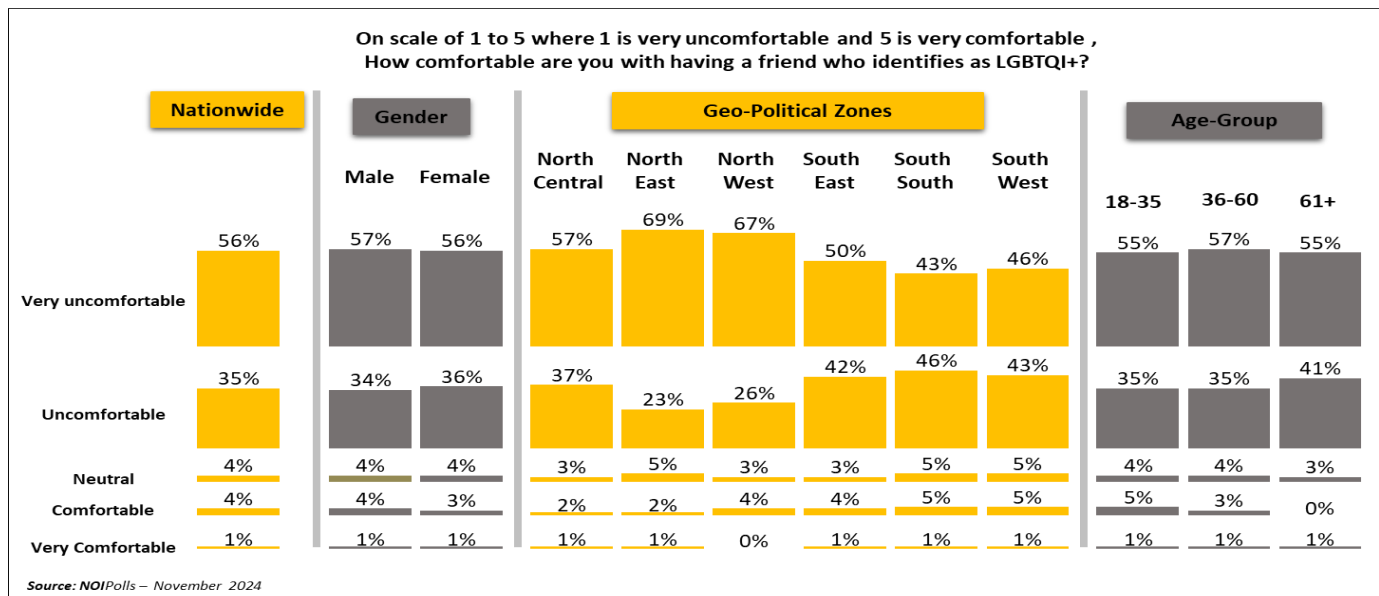


Source: NOIPolls – November 2024

Figure 12: Perception on Friends, Neighbours, Acquaintances and Family on Homosexuality

#### 5.4.1 Perception on Comfortability with a Friend Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

The poll result revealed a high level of intolerance for LGBTQI+ persons as 91 percent of the respondents said they won't be comfortable being around a friend with such sexual orientation.



Source: NOIPolls – November 2024

Figure 13: Perception on comfortability with Friend Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

Analysis by educational level revealed that respondents with no formal education and incomplete primary (100 Percent each) constitute the larger proportion of respondents who won't be comfortable having a friend who identifies as LGBTQI+.

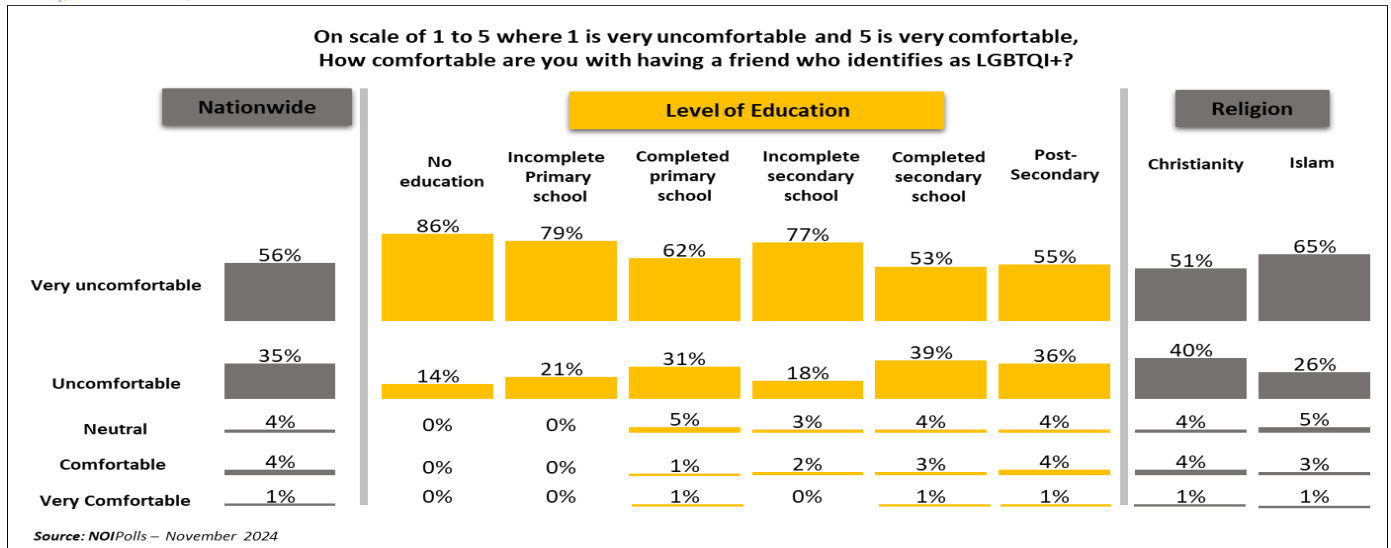


Figure 14: Perception on comfortability with a Friend Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

#### 5.4.2 Perception on Comfortability with Neighbour Who Identifies as LGBTQ

In the same vein, 89 percent of the respondents surveyed disclosed that they won't be comfortable having a neighbour who identifies as LGBTQI+.

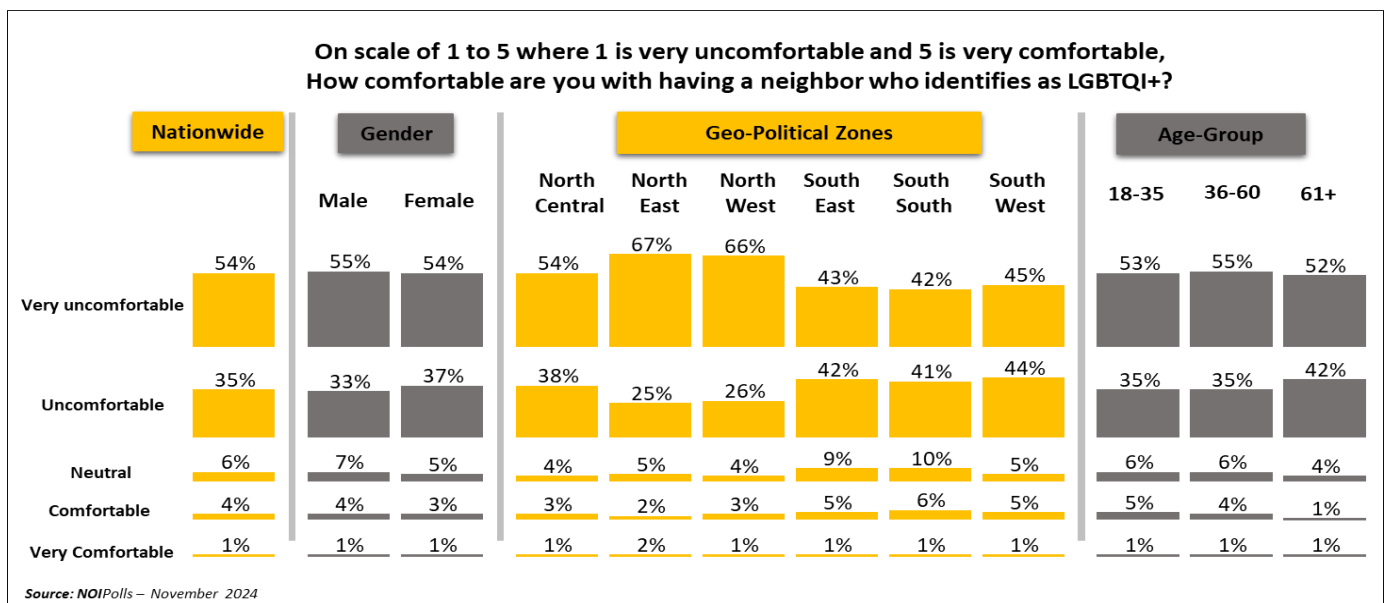


Figure 15: Perception on Comfortability with a Neighbour Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

Analysis by educational level showed that respondents with no formal education and incomplete primary school education (100 percent each) have the higher proportion of Nigerians who revealed that they won't be comfortable having a neighbor who identifies as LGBTQI+.



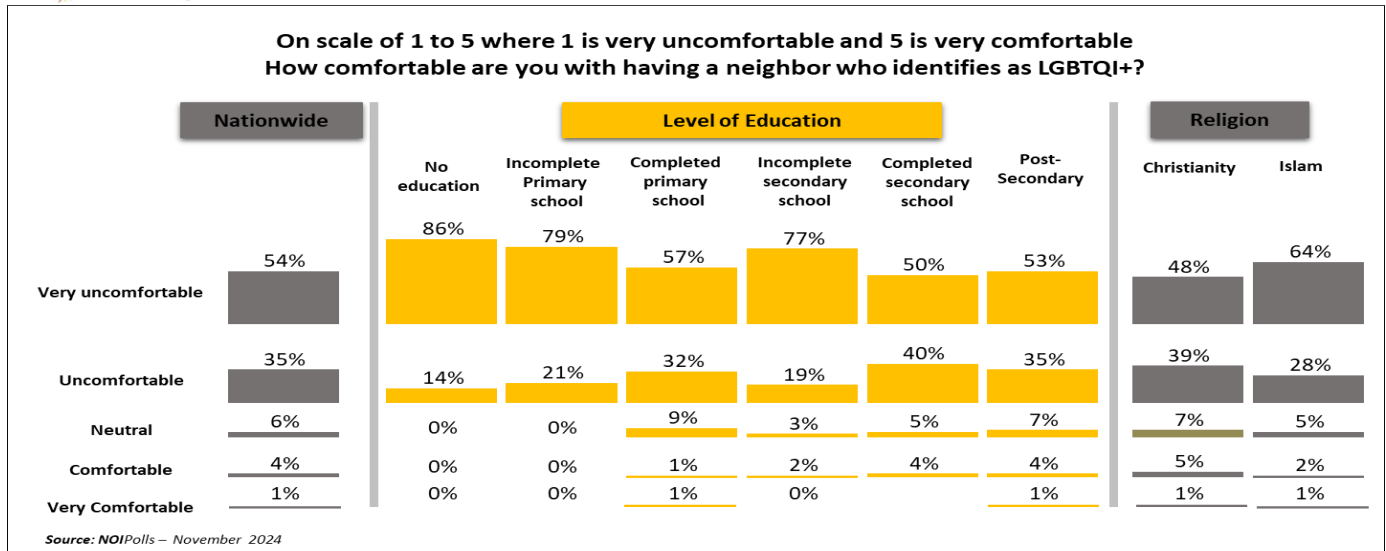


Figure 16: Perception on Comfortability with a neighbour Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

### 5.4.3 Perception on Comfortability Interacting with An Acquaintance Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

In addition, when respondents were asked: if they would be comfortable interacting with an acquaintance who identifies as LGBTQI+, the poll result showed that 87 percent responded in the negative stating that they won't be comfortable interacting with them.

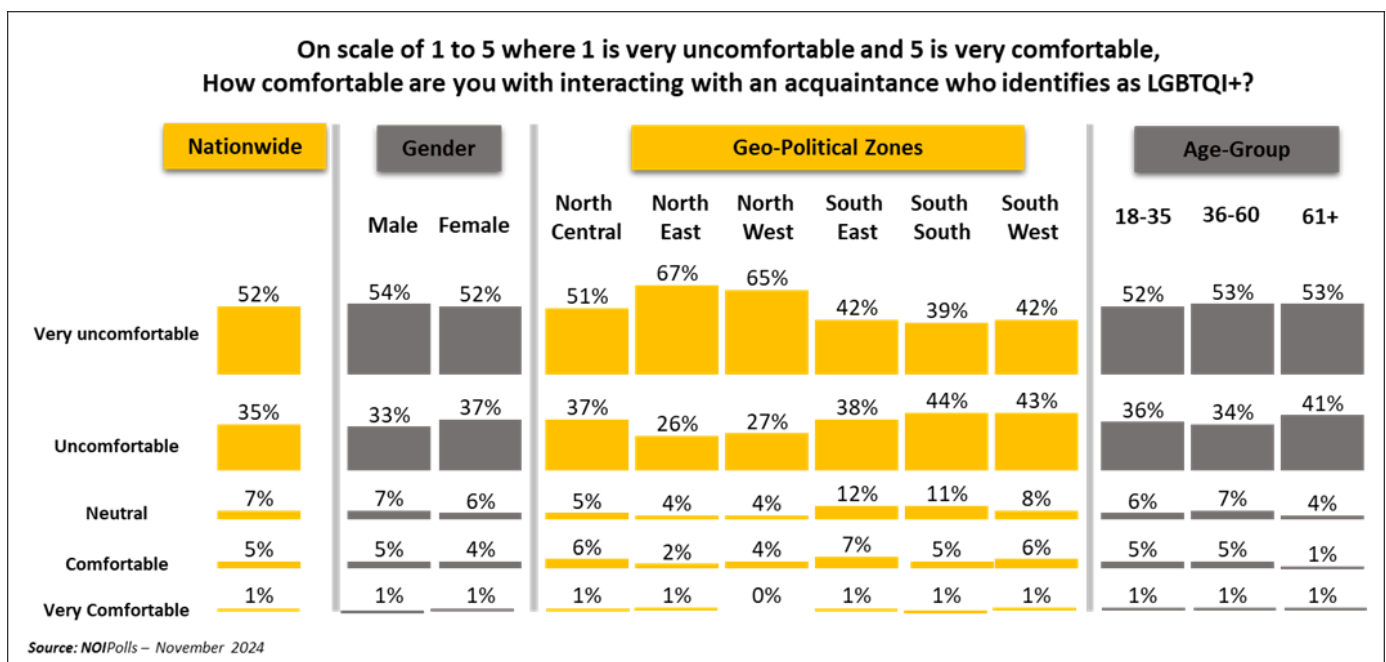


Figure 17: Perception on Comfortability Interacting with an Acquaintance Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

Analysis by educational level also revealed clearly that respondents who have no formal education and incomplete primary school accounted for the larger number of Nigerians who disclosed they won't be comfortable interacting with an acquaintance who identifies as LGBTQI+.

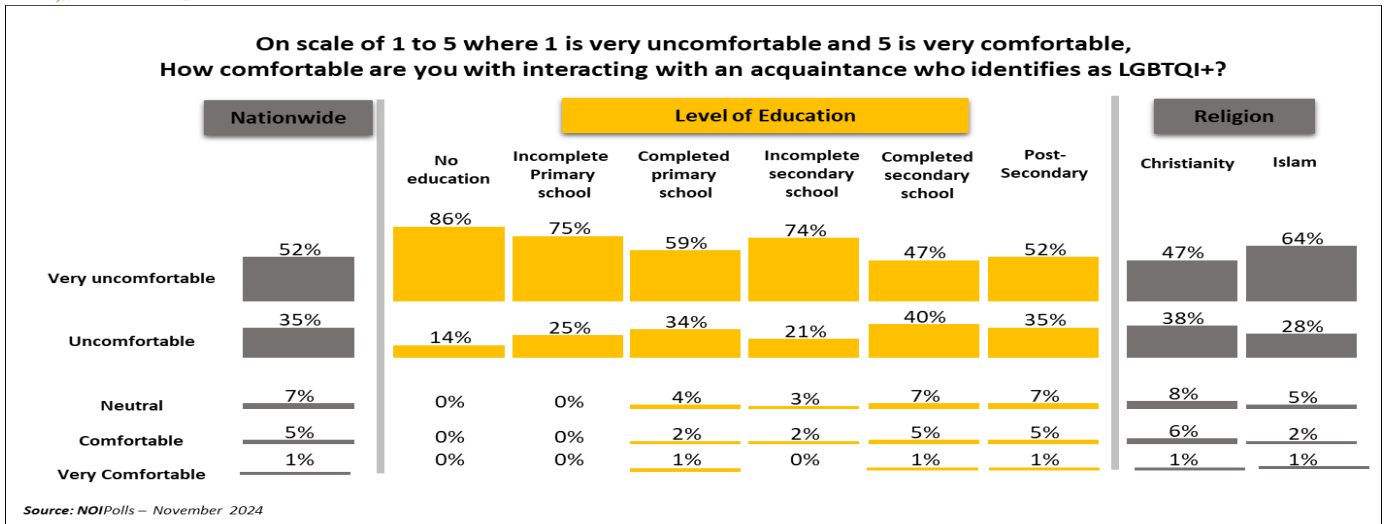


Figure 18: Perception on Comfortability Interacting with an Acquaintance Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

#### 5.4.4 Perception on Acceptability of a Family Member Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

Similarly, respondents were asked: how would you feel if a family member identified as LGBTQI+? The findings revealed that 92 percent said that they won't be comfortable with such a family member.

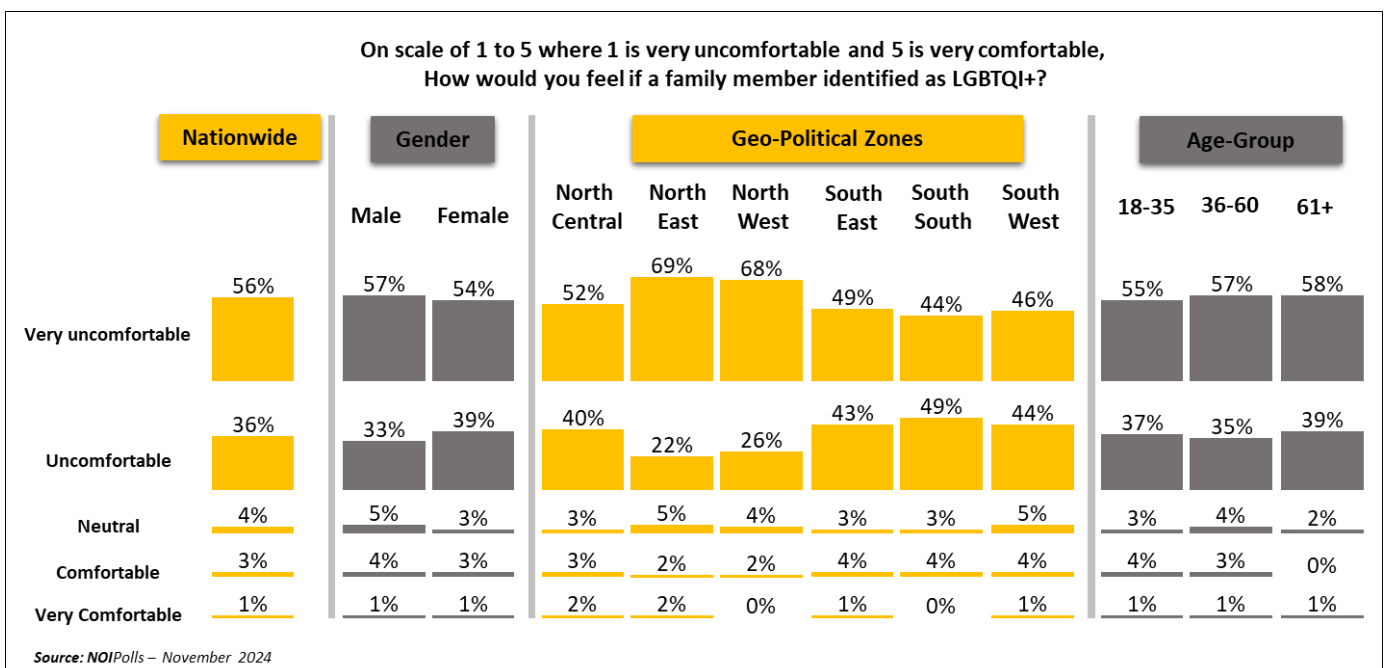


Figure 19: Perception On acceptability with a family Member Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

Respondents with no formal education (98 percent) and incomplete primary school (100 percent) have the larger proportion of respondents who said that they won't be comfortable with a family member that identifies as LGBTQI+.

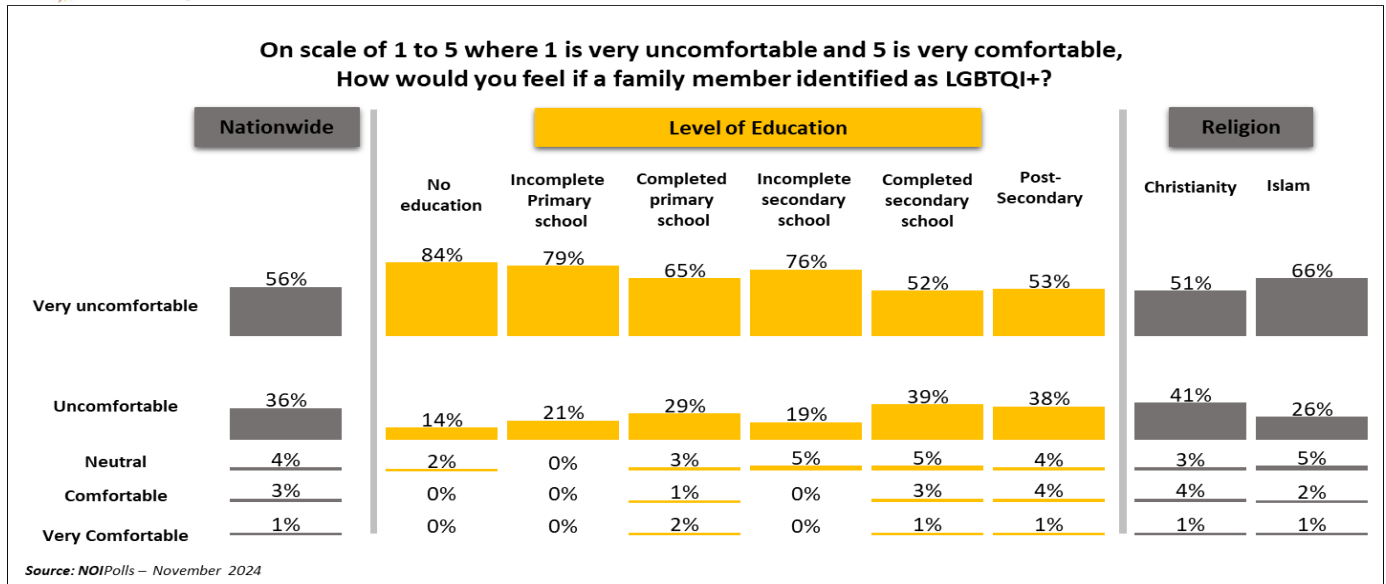


Figure 20: Perception On acceptability with a family Member Who Identifies as LGBTQI+

### 5.5 Perception on the Criminalization of Homosexuality in Nigeria

Furthermore, respondents were asked if they support the criminalization of homosexuality in Nigeria. The poll findings showed that 66 percent said yes and the North East zone had more respondents who made this assertion.

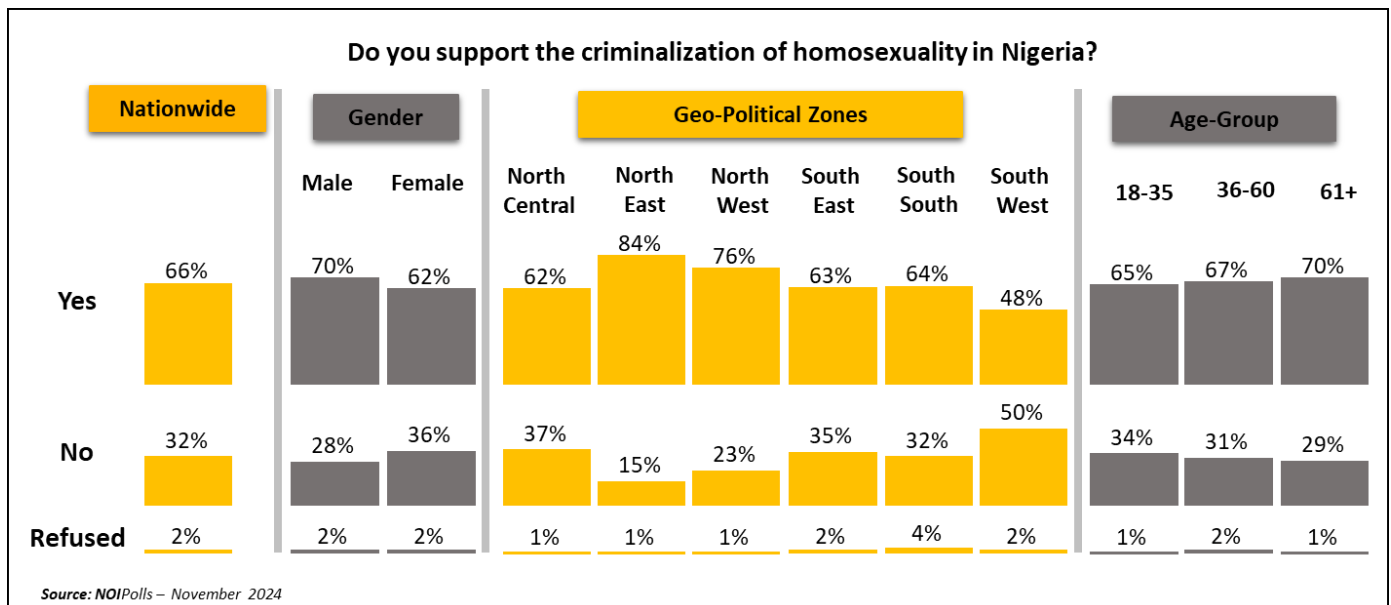


Figure 21: Perception on The Criminalization of Homosexuality in Nigeria

Further analysis by educational background revealed a high support for criminalization of homosexuality in Nigeria with a minimum representation of 65 percent.

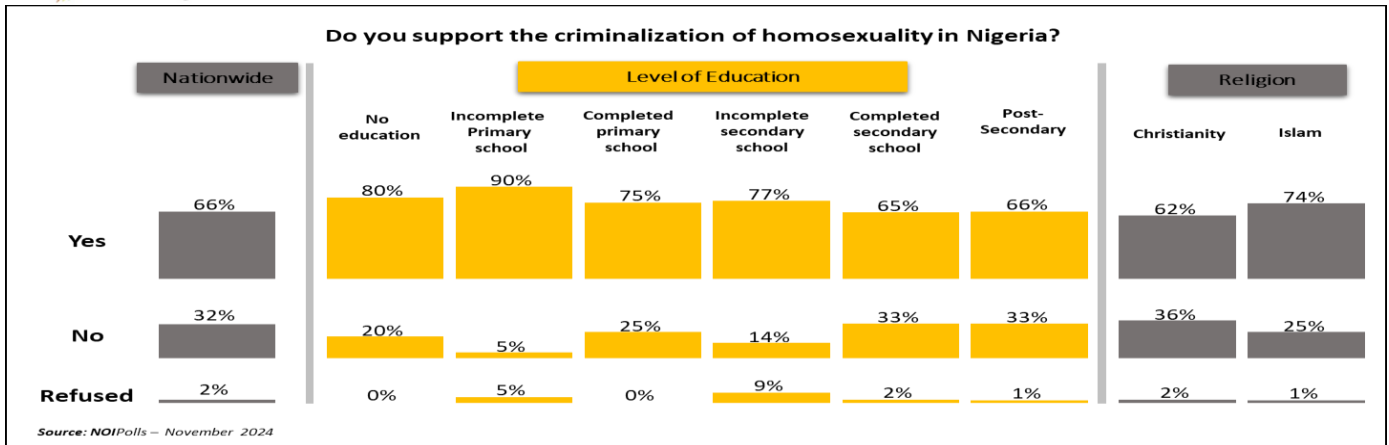


Figure 22: Perception on The Criminalization of Homosexuality in Nigeria

A cross analysis indicated that out of the respondents who reported that homosexuality is not natural, ironically, 94 percent believe that they do not support any form of criminalization on homosexuals.

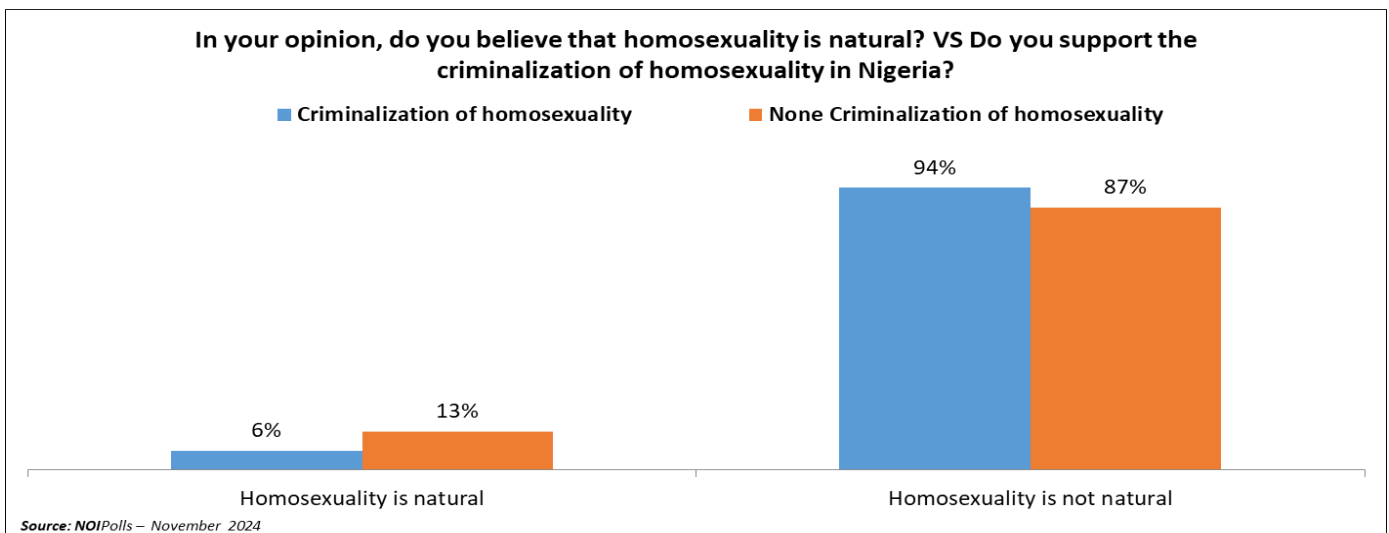


Figure 23: Cross Analysis on Naturality and Criminalization of Homosexuality

## 5.6 Perception of Someone as Gay

Interestingly, the poll result revealed that 18 percent of the respondents acknowledged that they have perceived people around them as gay. There are more male respondents (22 percent) than female respondents (14) who made this assertion.

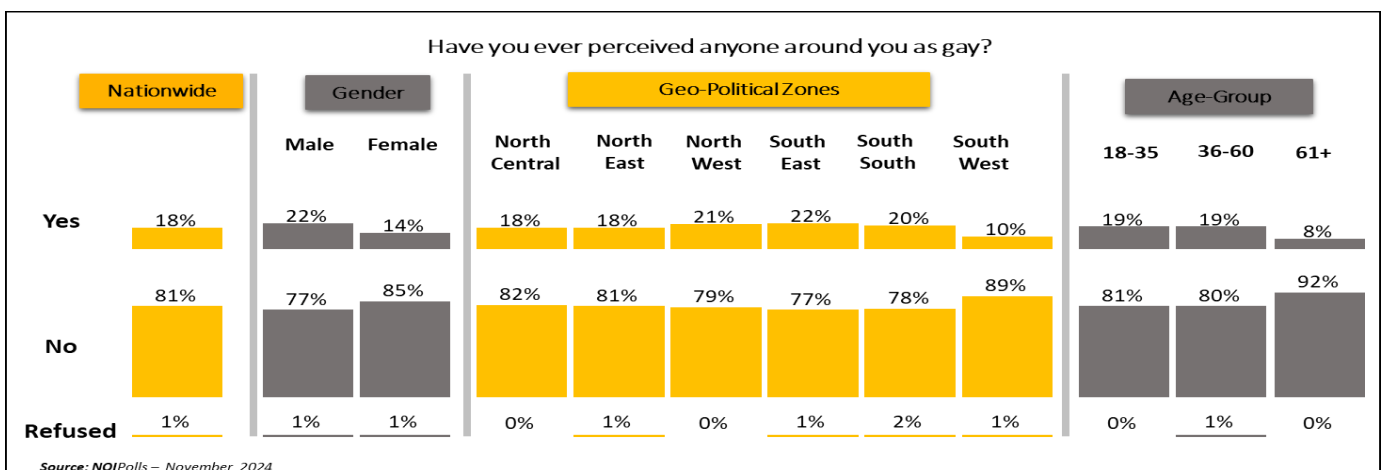


Figure 24: Perception of Someone as Gay

Analysis by educational level revealed that all respondents with incomplete primary category reported that they have never perceived anyone around them as gay.

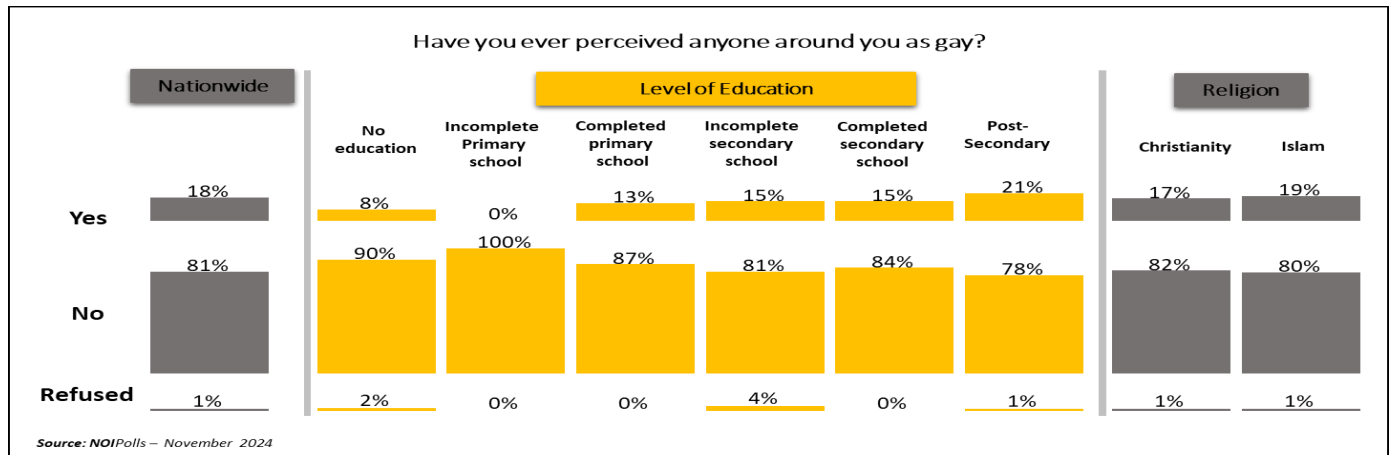


Figure 25: Perception of Someone as Gay

Trend analysis does not have any clear difference when compared the poll conducted in 2017 with the current findings.

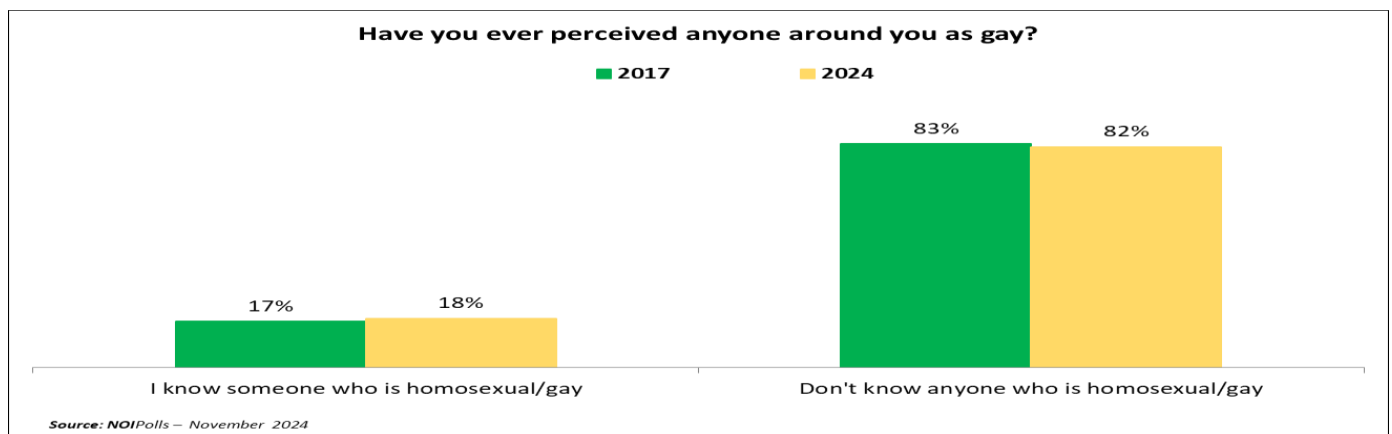


Figure 26: Trend analysis on Perception of Someone as Gay

## 5.7 Alignment of Sexuality with Personal Beliefs

Additionally, respondents were asked how important is it for a person's sexuality to align with their personal beliefs. The poll results showed that 69 percent of the respondents disclosed that it is very important for someone's sexuality to align with their personal belief.

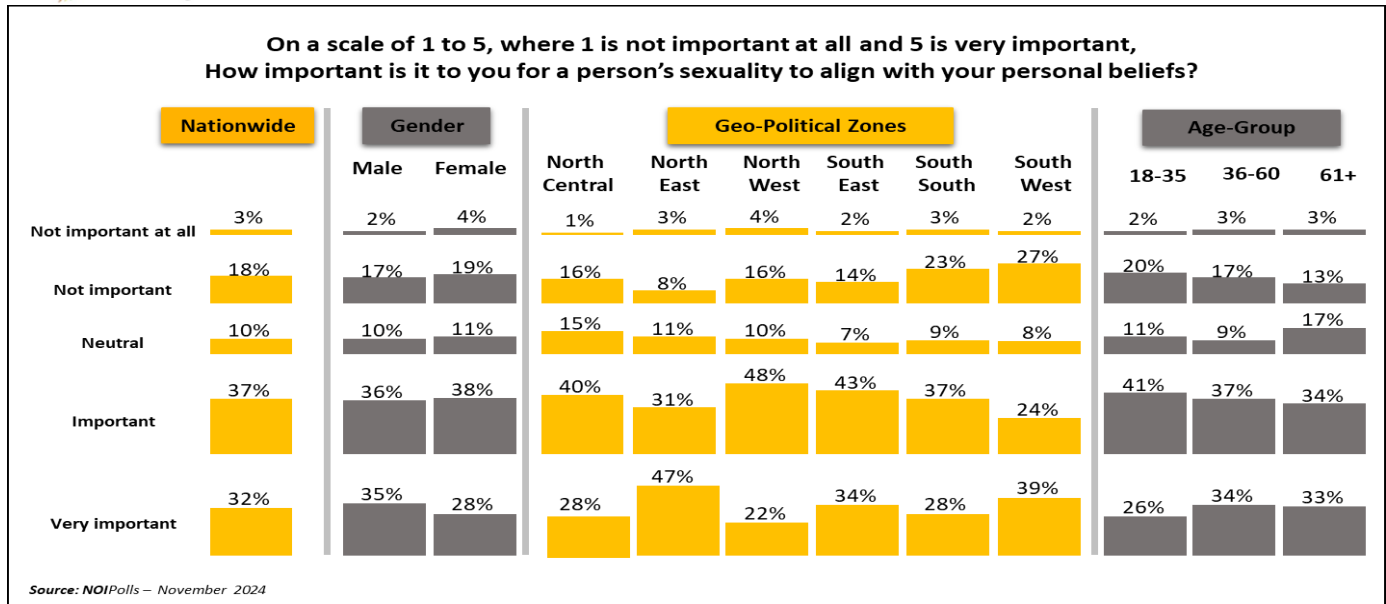


Figure 27: Alignment of Sexuality with Personal Belief

Further analysis by educational level suggests that most respondents believe that it is important that someone's sexuality aligns with their personal belief.

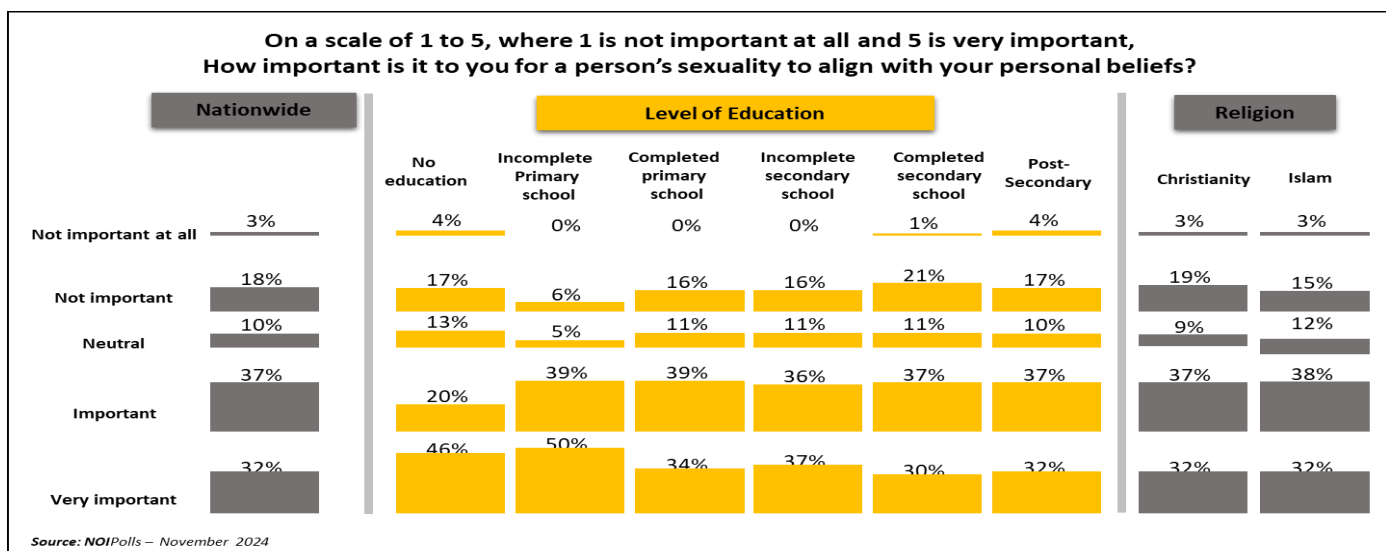


Figure 28: Alignment of Sexuality with Personal Belief

## 5.8 Perception on Punishment for Cross Dressers

When asked if people who identify as cross-dressers should be punished for wearing clothing typically associated with the opposite gender. The poll findings showed that most respondents answered in the affirmative as indicated by 67 percent of the respondents.



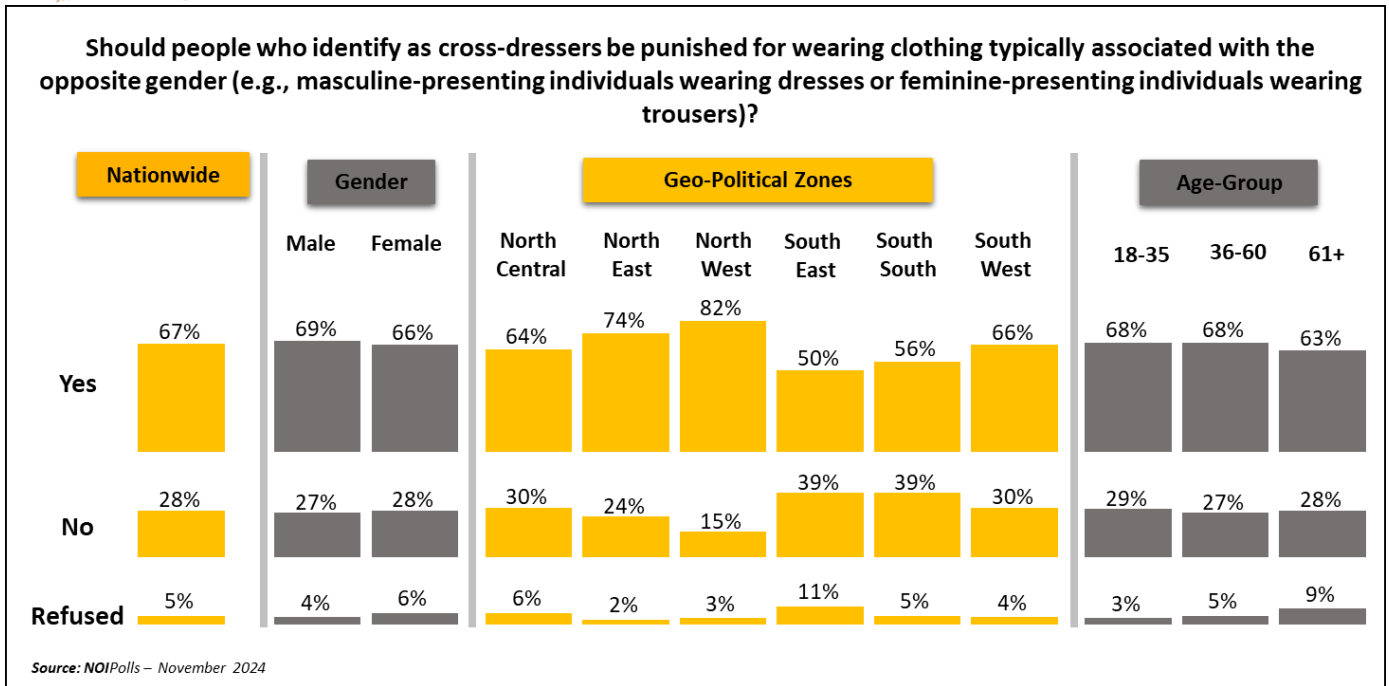


Figure 29: Perception on Punishment for Cross Dressers

Analysis by educational level showed that respondents who have no formal education (82 percent) constituted the largest proportion of respondents who want punishment for cross dressers.

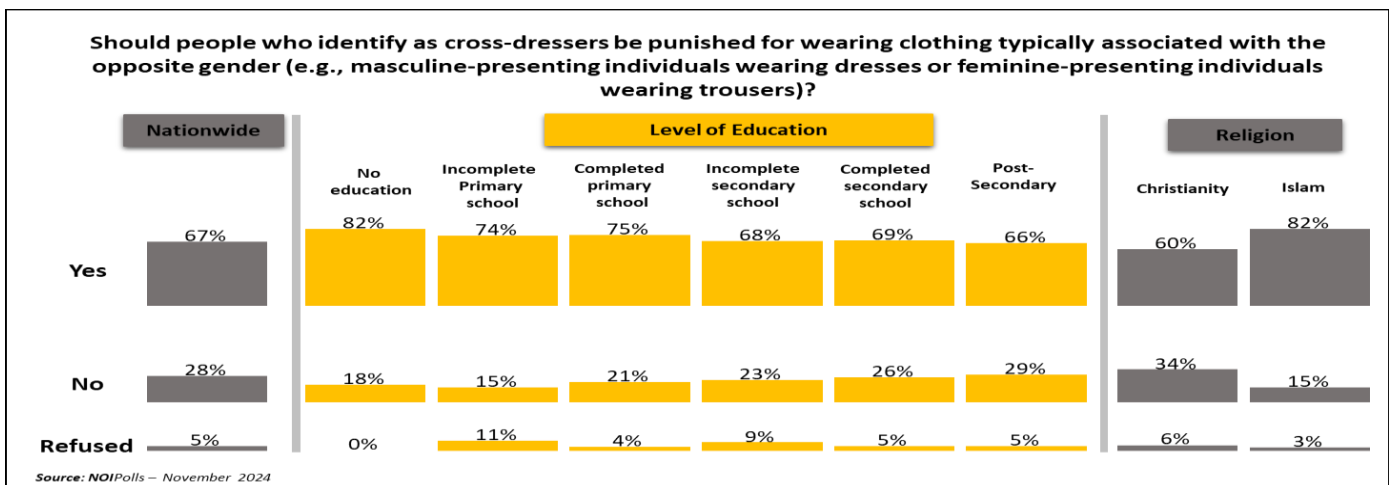


Figure 30: Perception on Punishment for Cross Dressers

## 5.9 Perception on Punishment for Being Gay/Lesbian

With regards to punishment for being gay or lesbian, 81 percent of the respondents nationwide are of the opinion that there should be penalty for being gay or lesbian. This finding cuts across gender, age-groups and geo-graphical regions with at least 70 percent representation.

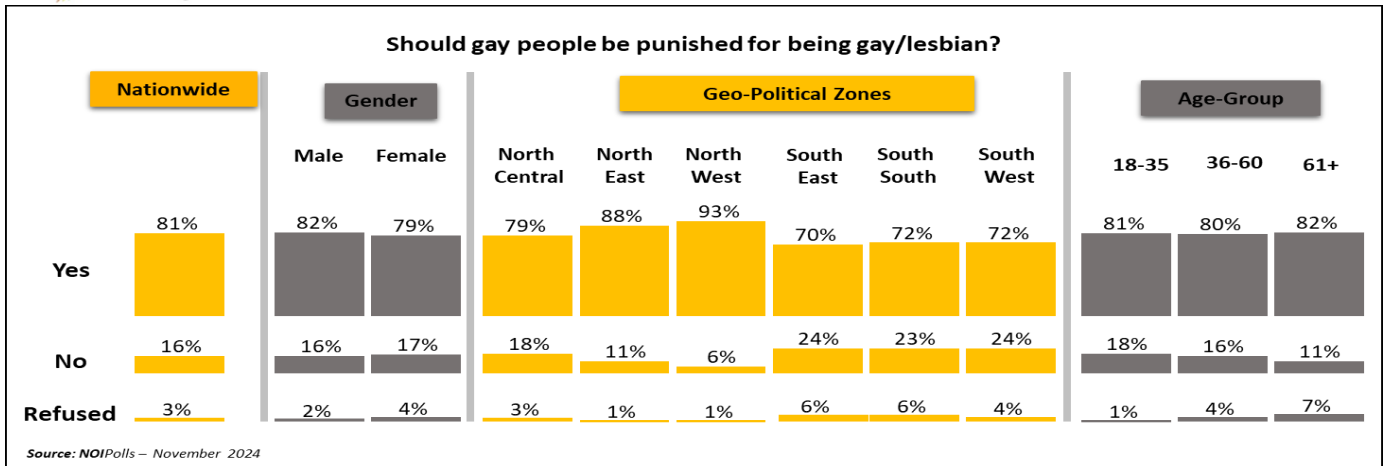


Figure 31: Perception on Punishment for Being Gay/Lesbian

Analysis by educational background suggests that respondents from all educational levels support punishment for gay or lesbians.

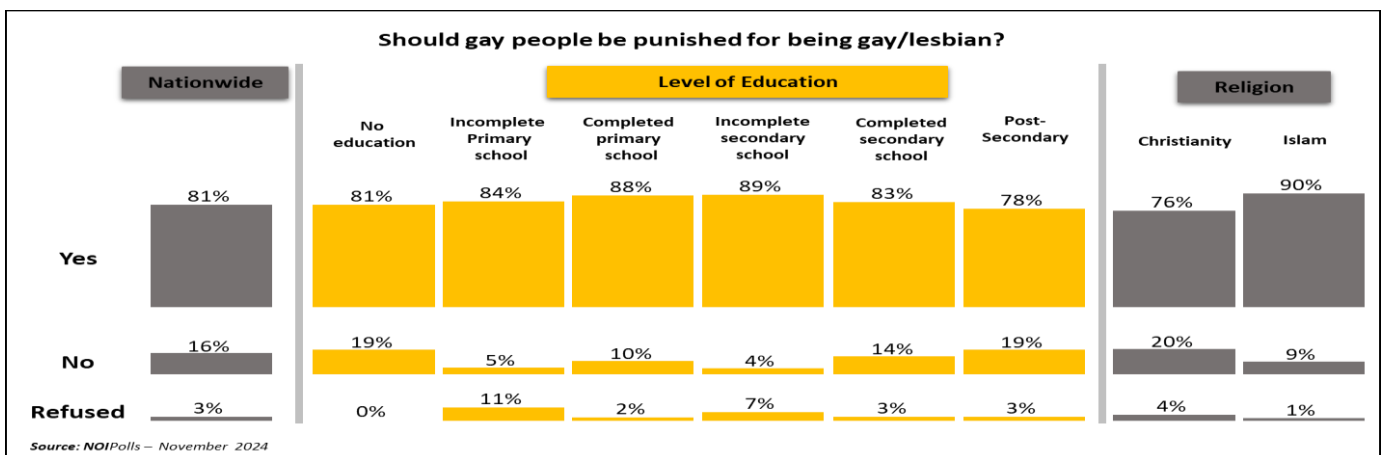


Figure 32: Perception on Punishment for Being Gay/Lesbian

### 5.10 Treatment of Gay People in the Past 5 years

The survey result showed that only 5 percent of the respondents disclosed that they have changed their mind about the treatment of gay people in the past 5 years. On the other hand, 93 percent responded otherwise.

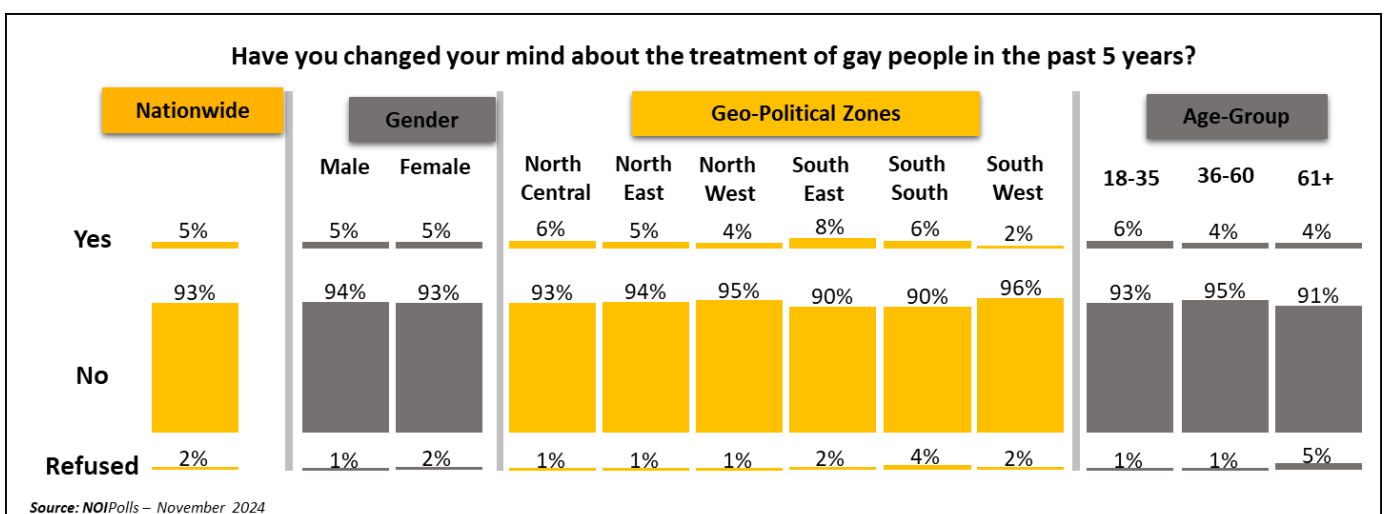


Figure 33: Treatment of Gay People in the Past 5 years

Analysis by educational level showed that all the respondents who have not completed secondary school stated no in response to the question.

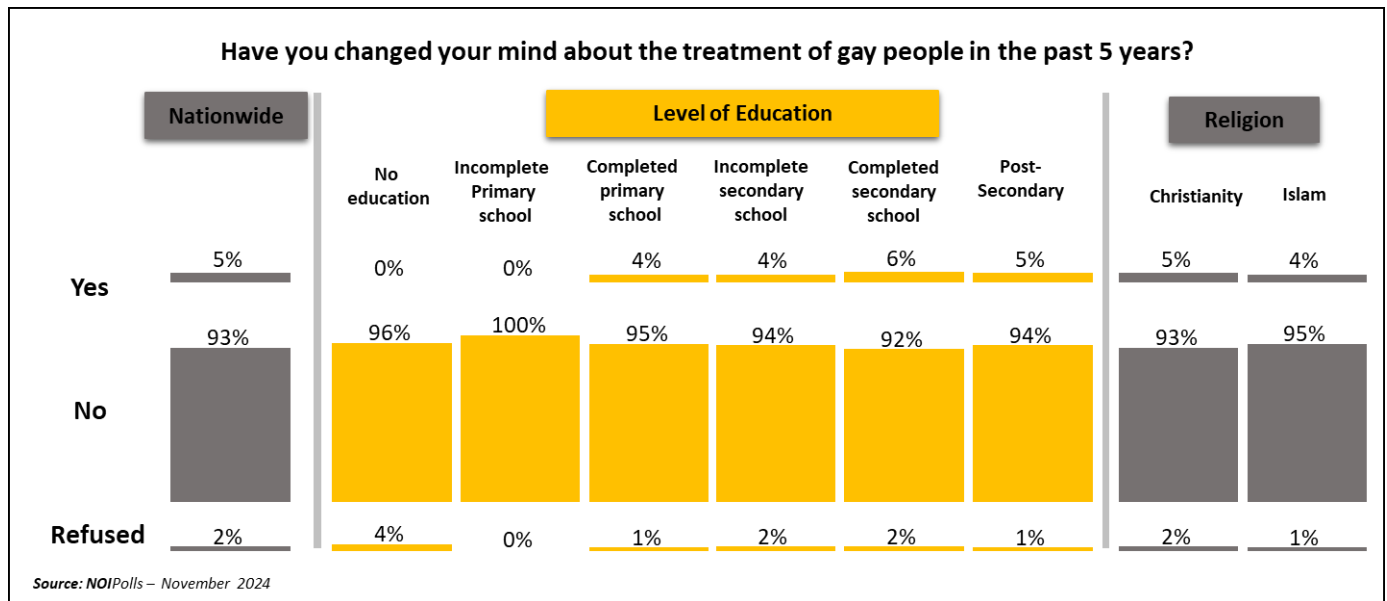


Figure 34: Treatment of Gay People in the Past 5 years

### 5.11 Perception on whether the Change was Open to Acceptance

Subsequently, the survey further probe respondents to know if the change of mind was open to acceptance. The result indicated that 42 percent said yes and there were more male respondents (45 percent) than female respondents (39 percent) in this category.

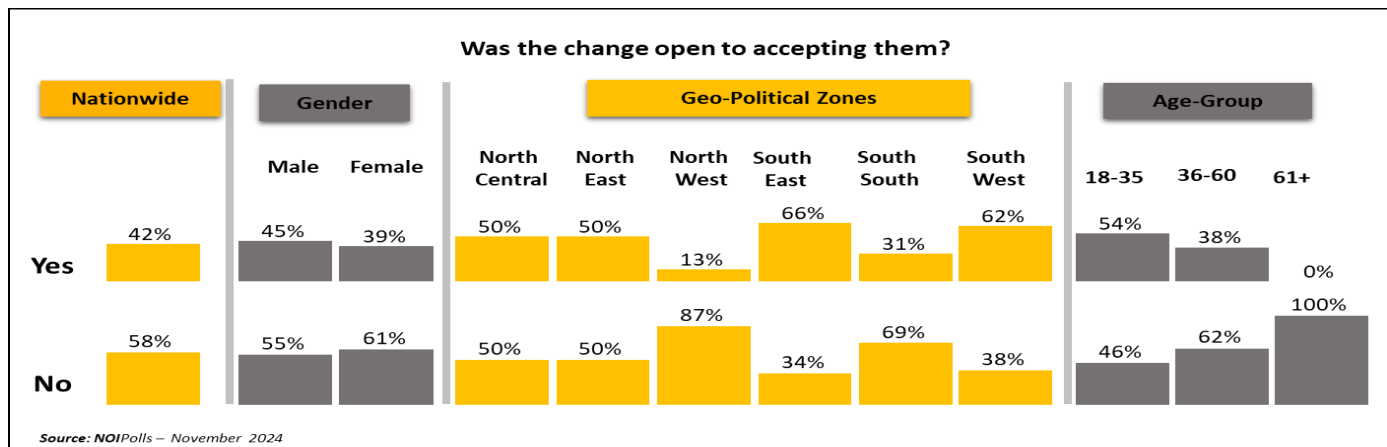


Figure 35: Perception on whether Change was Open to Acceptance

Analysis by educational background showed that all the respondents who did not complete secondary school formed the larger share of respondents who's the change of mind was not open to acceptance.

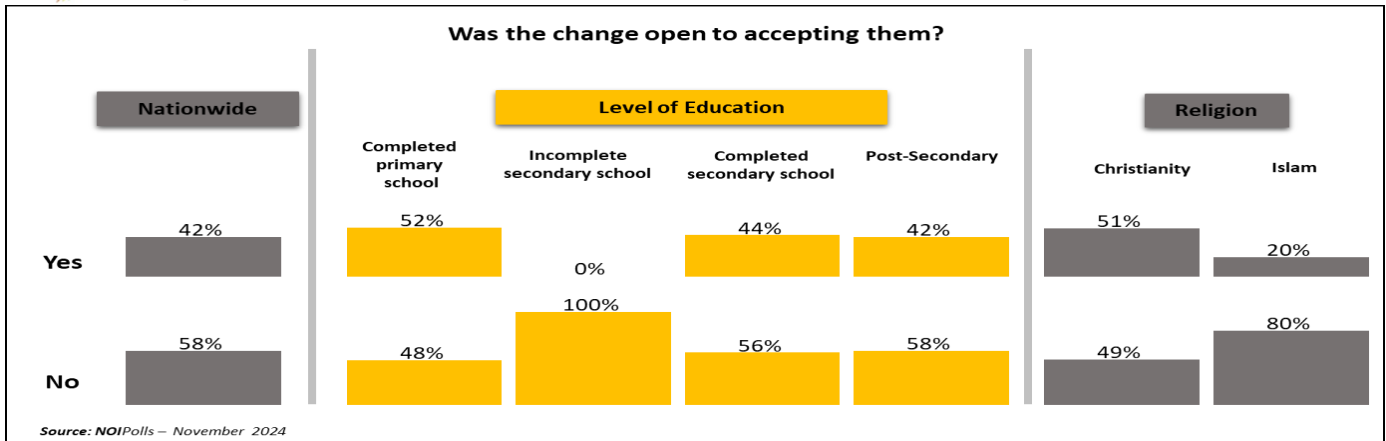


Figure 36: Perception on whether Change was Open to Acceptance

## 5.12 Perception On LGBTQI+ Basic Rights

With regards to equal right and access to public services such as health facility, the poll findings revealed that believe that they should have equal rights and have access to public facilities. There was no clear difference in gender responses. On the contract, 52 percent stated that they should not have equal rights nor access to public facilities.

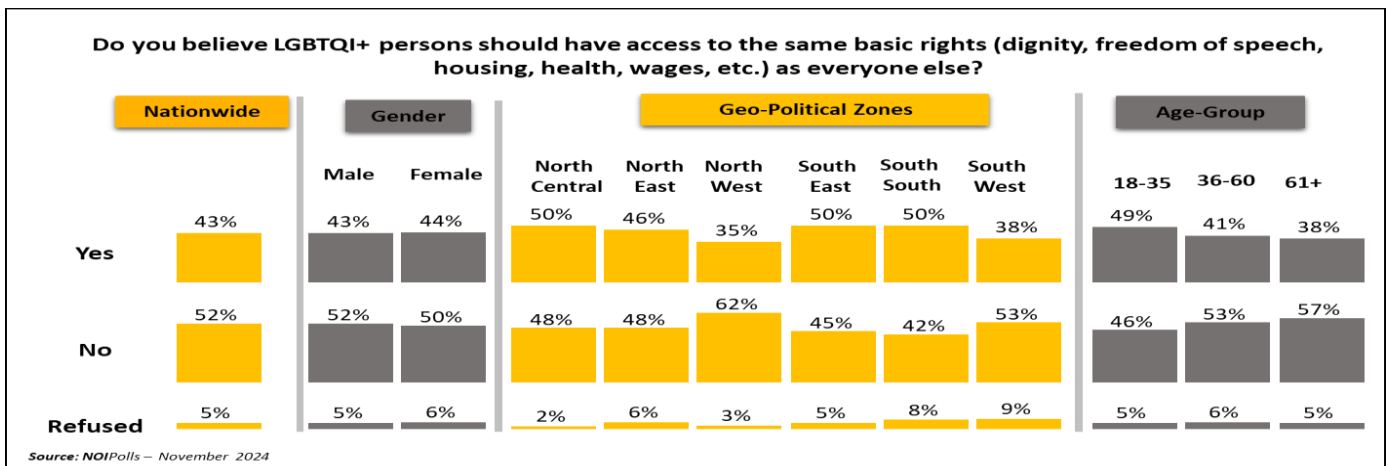


Figure 37: Perception On LGBTQI+ Basic Rights

Analysis by educational level showed that respondents with post-secondary school education (48 percent) form the larger proportion of respondents who want LGBTQI+ persons to have basic rights in Nigeria.

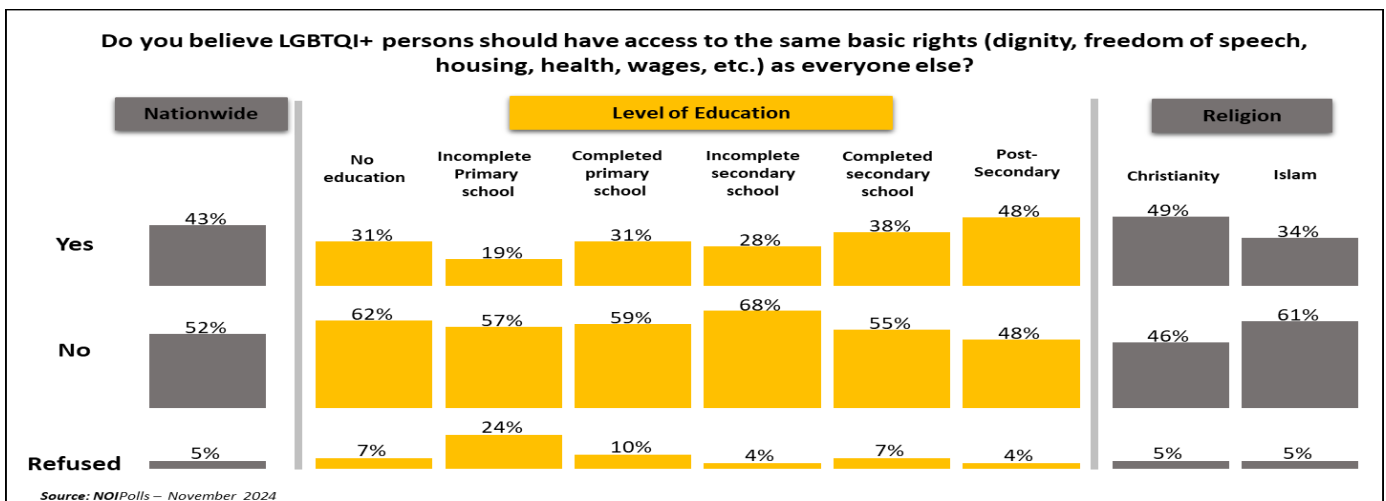


Figure 38: Perception On LGBTQI+ Basic Rights

### 5.13 Treatment of LGBTQI+ As A Medical Practitioner

Interestingly, the survey result showed that most respondents (64 percent) said they would treat a gay person with dignity in the line of duty when respondents were posed with this scenario was painted. However, 32 percent stated otherwise while 4 percent declined to respond to the question.

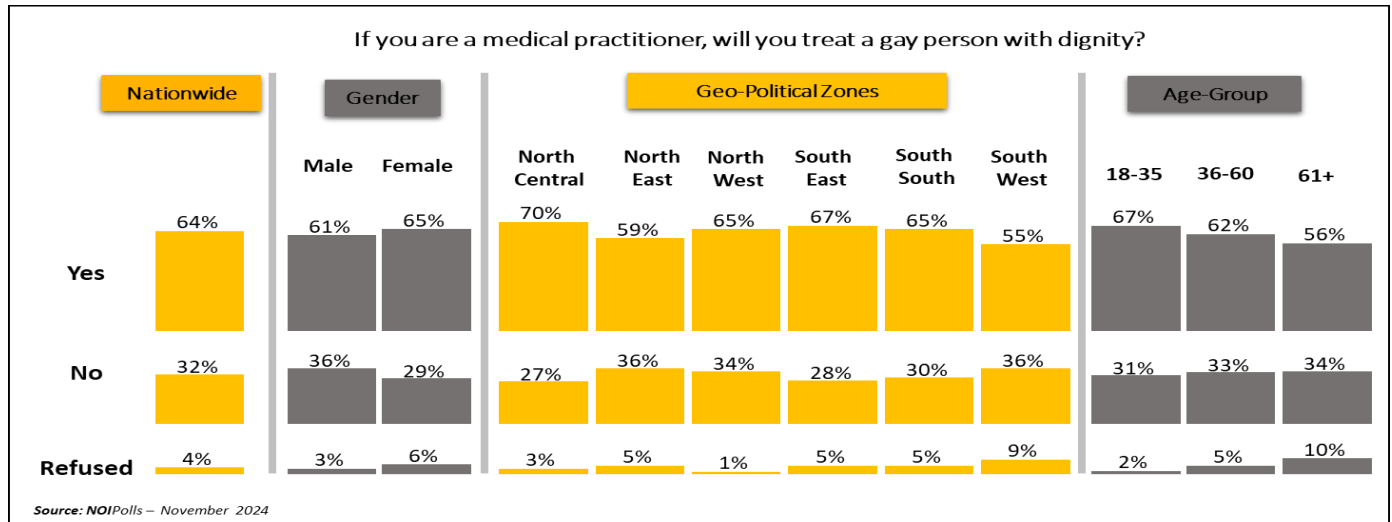


Figure 39: Treatment of LGBTQI+ As A Medical Practitioner

Analysis by educational background revealed that respondents with post-secondary school education (70 percent) form the larger proportion of respondents who disclosed that they will treat an LGBTQI+ persons with dignity.

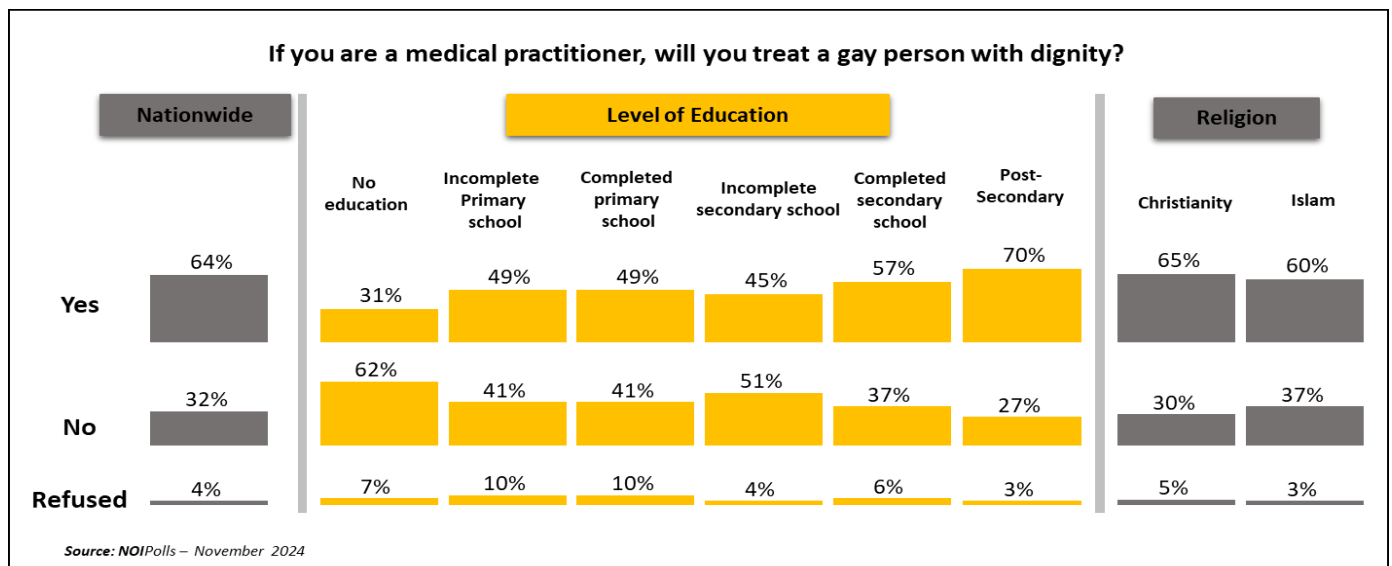


Figure 40: Treatment of LGBTQI+ As A Medical Practitioner

### 5.14 Perception on LGBTQI+ Acceptance Within family Member

In order to ascertain the level of acceptability of LGBTQI+ people across family members, most of respondents (71 percent) stated that they would not accept a family member who is homosexual. Analysis across gender showed that more males respondents (76 percent) than female respondents (66 percent) will not accept homosexuals, while residents from the South West zone had the highest unacceptability rate of 81 percent.

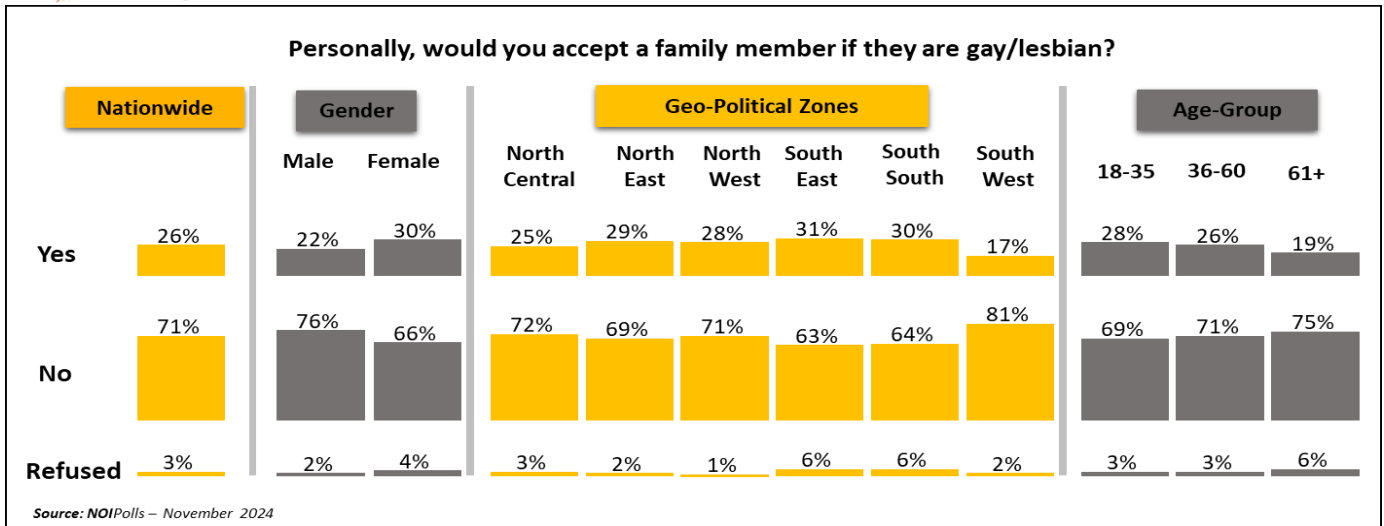


Figure 41: Perception on LGBTQ+ Acceptance Within family Member

Analysis by educational level revealed that respondents with incomplete primary school have the highest proportion of respondents who reported that they won't accept a family member with such sexual orientation.

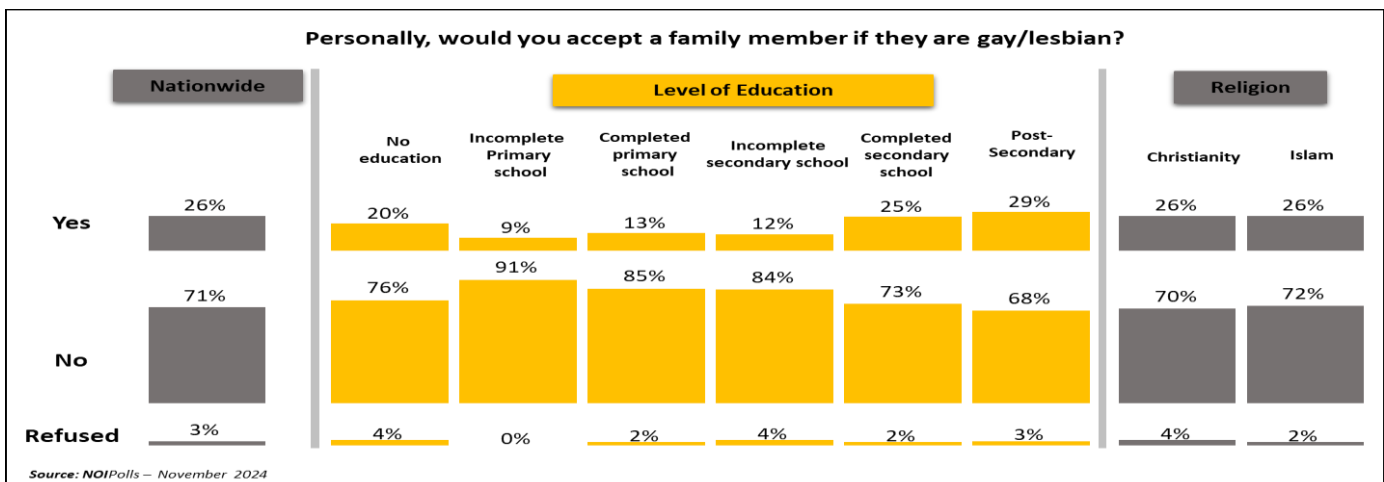


Figure 42: Perception on LGBTQ+ Acceptance Within family Member

## 6.0 Conclusion

The survey result has shown that an overwhelming proportion (90 percent) of respondents believe homosexuality is not natural. More so, 71 percent do not believe that people are born with their sexual orientation and would not be comfortable with a family member (92 percent), friend (91 percent), neighbour (89 percent) or interact with an acquaintance (87 percent) who identifies as LGBTQ+ person as most respondents (69 percent) disclosed that it is important for a person's sexuality to aligns with their personal belief.

Finally, the poll also revealed that 43 percent believe that homosexuals should have equal rights and access to public services such as healthcare, housing and education. It is also worth noting that despite the climate of fear and discrimination generated by the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA), which made it a criminal offence for LGBTQ+ people to hold meetings, set up associations and organization, 26 percent of the respondents have acknowledged that they are willing to accept someone who is homosexual as a family member.



## 7.0 Appendix – Questionnaires and extra charts

### Social Perception Survey Tool

Good morning / Evening, my name is..... I work for NOIPolls, an Abuja-based opinion polling and research organization. We are currently conducting a survey to find out the views of Nigerians regarding their perception on LGBTQI+. (We retrieved your number from a pool of randomly generated numbers). Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you are free not to respond to any question you feel uncomfortable about. However, your opinion is vital to this survey and your identity will be kept anonymous. There is no wrong or right answer and you may also feel free to answer any question with as much detail as you think appropriate. This interview will take about 20 minutes to complete. Is this a good time to talk? **Note to interviewer: Do not read out “Don’t know” and “Refused” options.**

1. In your opinion, do you believe that homosexuality is natural?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
2. Do you believe people are born with their sexual orientation (who they are attracted to)?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
3. In your opinion, do you believe that individuals can choose their sexual identity (who they feel they are in terms of gender or attraction)?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
4. Which of these statements apply to you in your perception of homosexuals in Nigeria? For these statements, I propose we use a 5-point Likert scale (1 = very uncomfortable, 2 = Uncomfortable, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Comfortable, 5 = Very comfortable)

		Very uncomfortable	Uncomfortable	Neutral	Comfortable	Very Comfortable	Don't know / refused
a	How comfortable are you with having a friend who identifies as LGBTQI+?	1	2	3	4	5	6
b	How comfortable are you with having a neighbor who identifies as LGBTQI+?	1	2	3	4	5	6
c	How comfortable are you with interacting with an acquaintance who identifies as LGBTQI+?	1	2	3	4	5	6
d	How would you feel if a family member identified as LGBTQI+?	1	2	3	4	5	6

5. Do you support the criminalization of homosexuality in Nigeria?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
6. Have you ever perceived anyone around you as gay?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
7. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not important at all and 5 is very important, how important is it to you for a person's sexuality to align with your personal beliefs?
  1. Not important at all
  2. Not important
  3. Neutral
  4. Important
  5. Very important
8. Should people who identify as cross-dressers be punished for wearing clothing typically associated with the opposite gender (e.g., masculine-presenting individuals wearing dresses or feminine-presenting individuals wearing trousers)?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
9. Should gay people be punished for being gay/lesbian?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
10. Have you changed your mind about the treatment of gay people in the past 5 years?
  1. Yes **(Continue to Q12)**
  2. No **(Skip to Q13)**
  3. Refused **(Skip to Q13)**
11. Was the change open to accepting them?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
12. Do you believe LGBTQI+ persons should have access to the same basic rights (dignity, freedom of speech, housing, health, wages, etc.) as everyone else?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused
13. If you are a medical practitioner, will you treat a gay person with dignity?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Refused

14. Personally, would you accept a family member if they are gay/lesbian?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Refused

**DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

15. Gender:

1. Male
2. Female

16. What age category do you fall in to?

1. 0-17 (**Terminate**)
2. 18-35
3. 36-60
4. 60+
5. Don't know/Refused

17. What is your highest level of education?

1. No education
2. Incomplete primary school
3. Completed primary school
4. Incomplete secondary school
5. Completed secondary school
6. Post-Secondary
7. Prefer not to say

18. What is your religion?

1. Christianity
2. Islam
3. Atheist
4. Traditionalist
5. Others (Specify).....

19. Occupation?

1) Government Worker / Civil Servant	Employed by a public ministry, agency, board, or commission; either at Federal, State or LGA level.
2) Professional worker	Lawyer, Doctor, Teacher, Engineer, Nurse, Accountant, Computer Programmer, Architect, Banker, Pilot etc.
3) Self-Employed Trader	Self-employed trader or one-man business owner.
4) Business Man/Woman	Owner-Manager of a registered business corporation employing one or more persons.
5) Farmer/Agric. Worker	Farmer, Fisherman, Meat Seller, Agro Dealer, Agric extension worker, tractor operator etc
6) Artisan	Carpenter, barber, Plumber, Electrician, Mechanic, Hairdresser, Tailor, Welder etc
7) Religious Leader / Missionary	Full-Time Pastor, Evangelist, Reverend, Imam, Mallam etc
8) Youth Corper	Currently Serving

9) Student	Currently in Secondary or Tertiary Institutions – Universities, Polytechnics, College of Education and Vocational Schools
10) Unemployed Youth / Adult	Currently has no means of earning an income
11) Others	

20. What state do you live in? **(Interviewer: code state and geo-political zone using separate sheet)**
21. What LGA do you live in? **(Interviewer: code LGA using separate sheet)**

**Thank the respondent for participation and end interview**