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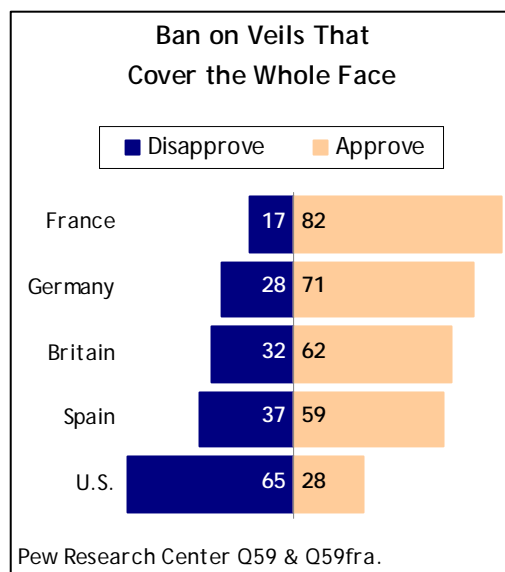
Most Americans Disapprove

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR BANNING FULL ISLAMIC VEIL IN WESTERN EUROPE

On July 13, members of the lower house of the French parliament are expected to vote on a bill that would make it illegal for Muslim women to wear full veils – those that cover all of the face except the eyes – in public places. A survey by the Pew Research Center’s Global Attitudes Project, conducted April 7 to May 8, finds that the French public overwhelmingly endorses this measure; 82% approve of a ban on Muslim women wearing full veils in public, including schools, hospitals and government offices, while just 17% disapprove.¹

Majorities in Germany (71%), Britain (62%) and Spain (59%) would also support a similar ban in their own countries. In contrast, most Americans would oppose such a measure; 65% say they would disapprove of a ban on Muslim women wearing full veils in public places compared with 28% who say they would approve.

In the four Western European countries surveyed as well as in the U.S., support for a ban on Muslim women wearing a full veil is more pronounced among those who are age 55 and older, although majorities across all age groups in France, Germany and Britain favor a ban. For



¹ This question was asked in Western Europe and the U.S. as part of the Spring 2010 Pew Global Attitudes Survey, which included 22 nations. For more findings from this survey, see “Obama More Popular Abroad Than at Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit,” released June 17, 2010.

example, 91% of French respondents age 55 and older approve of restrictions on Muslim women covering their face, compared with 81% of those ages 35 to 54 and 72% of those younger than 35.

In Spain, where 70% in the older group and a narrower majority (55%) of those ages 35 to 54 favor a ban on full veils, younger respondents are closely divided; 49% of those ages 18 to 34 approve of such measures and 47% disapprove. In the U.S., about one-third (35%) of those in the oldest age group say they would welcome a ban on veils that cover the whole face except the eyes, while 28% of those ages 35 to 54 and just 22% of those younger than 35 say the same.

	18-34	35-54	55+
<i>% Approve</i>	%	%	%
Britain	52	61	71
France	72	81	91
Germany	58	71	77
Spain	49	55	70
U.S.	22	28	35

Pew Research Center Q59 & Q59fra.

Opinions about banning Muslim women from wearing a full veil do not vary along gender lines in any of the five countries where the question was asked. In France, Britain and the U.S., views on this matter are also similar across education and income groups. However, in Spain and Germany, those in higher income groups are more likely than the less affluent to approve of such a ban; for example, a slim majority (51%) of low-income respondents in Spain favor a ban on full veils, compared with 62% of those in the middle-income range and 68% of those with high incomes.

Ideologically, those on the right in France, Britain and Germany are more likely than those on the left to approve of a ban on women wearing the full Islamic veil in public places, but majorities across the political spectrum in these countries endorse such a ban. In France, 87% of those on the right support prohibiting women from wearing full veils in public, and 75% of those on the political left agree. Spain is the only Western European country surveyed where those on both ends of the ideology scale express nearly identical views; 59% of those on the right and 57% of those on the left approve of a ban on Muslim women wearing veils that cover the whole face. Ideological differences are also insignificant in the U.S.

	Left	Center	Right
<i>% Approve</i>	%	%	%
Britain	55	63	69
France	75	83	87
Germany	63	72	76
Spain	57	62	59
U.S.	24	26	31

U.S. respondents were asked if they consider themselves conservative, moderate or liberal. In Europe, they were asked to place themselves on a left-right spectrum.

Pew Research Center Q59 & Q59fra.

About the Pew Global Attitudes Project

The *Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project* conducts public opinion surveys around the world on a broad array of subjects ranging from people's assessments of their own lives to their views about the current state of the world and important issues of the day. The project is directed by Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" in Washington, DC, that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is principally funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The project is co-chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, currently principal, the Albright Stonebridge Group, and by former Senator John C. Danforth, currently partner, Bryan Cave LLP.

Since its inception in 2001, the *Pew Global Attitudes Project* has released numerous major reports, analyses, and other releases, on topics including attitudes toward the U.S. and American foreign policy, globalization, terrorism, and democracy.

Findings from the project are also analyzed in *America Against the World: How We Are Different and Why We Are Disliked* by Andrew Kohut and Bruce Stokes, international economics columnist at the *National Journal*. A paperback edition of the book was released in May 2007.

Pew Global Attitudes Project team members include Richard Wike, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Jacob Poushter, Mattie Ressler, Elizabeth Mueller Gross and Bruce Stokes. Other contributors to the project include Pew Research Center staff members Jodie T. Allen, Carroll Doherty, Michael Dimock and Neha Sahgal. Additional members of the team include Mary McIntosh, president of Princeton Survey Research Associates International, and Wendy Sherman, principal at the Albright Stonebridge Group. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* team regularly consults with survey and policy experts, regional and academic experts, journalists, and policymakers whose expertise provides tremendous guidance in shaping the surveys.

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Interviews</u>
Summer 2002	44 Nations	38,263
November 2002	6 Nations	6,056
March 2003	9 Nations	5,520
May 2003	21 Publics*	15,948
March 2004	9 Nations	7,765
May 2005	17 Nations	17,766
Spring 2006	15 Nations	16,710
Spring 2007	47 Publics*	45,239
Spring 2008	24 Nations	24,717
Spring 2009	25 Publics*	26,397
Fall 2009	14 Nations	14,760
Spring 2010	22 Nations	24,790

* Includes the Palestinian territories.

All of the project's reports and commentaries are available at www.pewglobal.org. The data are also made available on our website within two years of publication.

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Methods Table

<u>Country</u>	<u>Sample size</u>	<u>Margin of Error (pct. points)</u>	<u>Field dates</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Sample design</u>
United States	1,002	±4.0	April 15 - May 5	Telephone	National
Britain	750	±4.0	April 15 - May 2	Telephone	National
France	752	±4.0	April 15 - April 23	Telephone	National
Germany	750	±5.0	April 15 - April 30	Telephone	National
Spain	755	±4.0	April 14 - May 4	Telephone	National

Note: For more comprehensive information on the methodology of this study, see the report "Obama More Popular Abroad Than at Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit," released on June 17, 2010.

**Pew Global Attitudes Project
Spring 2010 Survey
Topline Results**

		Q59 Some countries are considering a ban on Muslim women wearing full veils that cover all of the face except the eyes in public places including schools, hospitals, and government offices. Would you approve or disapprove of such a ban in (survey country)?			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2010	28	65	7	100
Britain	Spring, 2010	62	32	6	100
Germany	Spring, 2010	71	28	1	100
Spain	Spring, 2010	59	37	5	100

		Q59fra The government is considering a ban on Muslim women wearing full veils that cover all of the face except the eyes in public places including schools, hospitals, and government offices. Do you approve or disapprove of such a ban?			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
France	Spring, 2010	82	17	0	100