



THE “RIGHTS” SIDE OF LIFE

A Baseline Human Rights Survey



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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE MALDIVES

THE “RIGHTS” SIDE OF LIFE - A BASELINE HUMAN RIGHTS SURVEY

SURVEY REPORT

This survey was sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, Maldives and the report written by Peter Hosking, Senior Consultant, UNDP

Foreword

This is the first general human rights survey undertaken in the Maldives. The information it contains about Maldivians' awareness of the Human Rights Commission, and their knowledge about and attitudes towards human rights will form the Commission's priorities in the years ahead.

The events of September 2003 (riots in the prison and the streets of Male') led to the announcement by the President, on June 9, 2004, of a programme of democratic reforms. Along with the establishment of the HRCM were proposals to create an independent judiciary and an independent Parliament. Once in place, these reforms will herald a new era for the Maldives, where human rights are respected by the authorities and enjoyed by all.

To date, only limited progress has been made with the reform programme. Even in relation to the Commission, although it was established on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2003, by decree, there have been delays in passing its founding law. Then there were deficiencies in the law when it was passed and amendments are required. There has also been a delay in the appointment of the Commission's members. While this situation is greatly inhibiting the Commission's ability to function at full capacity, some activities have been possible, including the undertaking of this baseline survey with the generous assistance of UNDP.

The survey has revealed a wealth of information. It establishes clearly that people in the Maldives value human rights. There may be considerable lack of awareness about what those rights are, and how they can be realised, but there is no doubting that Maldivians are ready for the new era and the human rights that democracy brings. They also expect the authorities to respect those rights, which will require major changes in government administrative practices and policies, as well as training in the new standards that will be required of those in power. All this represents a significant challenge for every institution of the State.

As the country's official human rights watchdog, the Commission has three main roles – to promote awareness of human rights, to provide human rights policy advice to the authorities, and to investigate and resolve human rights grievances. All three functions will be crucial in delivering the human rights culture that Maldivians anticipate. Once the Commission's law is amended, and new Commissioners are appointed, the Commission is committed to working with the authorities to ensure that the human rights expectations of everyone in the Maldives are fully realised.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the people who participated in the survey, and the consultants Mr. Peter Hosking and Dr. Abusaleh Shariff for their valuable contributions to the survey.

- Human Rights Commission of the Maldives

Foreword

I would like to congratulate the Human Rights Commission for conducting this very important survey.

Human rights are a key concern for the United Nations in the Maldives and across the globe. The UN is committed to creating a culture of respect for human rights, as laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As the Declaration states, recognition “of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

I am encouraged to see that there is a growing recognition of the importance of an independent and effective Commission in the country, which will serve as a key institution in strengthening democracy in the Maldives. This is reflected in the healthy debate on the Commission in Parliament and the media, and the commitment of all stakeholders to see the Human Rights Commission succeed.

The results of the survey confirm the challenges, but also point out the opportunities that lie ahead. They demonstrate the importance that the people of this country attach to human rights and the value they place on the Commission.

The survey reveals that only 59% of the population are aware of human rights issues or the purpose of the Commission. The percentage is even lower in the atolls. The survey highlights that overcoming gender-based violence remains a key challenge for the Maldives and that almost 82% of the population believes that child abuse, especially of girls, is a serious problem in their communities.

The survey also indicates that there is significant work to be done on access to services, particularly on increasing employment opportunities. There is widespread demand for greater democratization and participation in Atoll and Island Development Committees, with over 90% of respondents believing that Island and Atoll Chiefs need to be elected by the people. In this regard, I am pleased to note that the Government is working towards a decentralization strategy that includes the election of Atoll and Island Councils in a more participatory way.

The findings of the survey will come into immediate use in assisting the Commission to focus and prioritise its Strategic Action Plan for 2006-2011. The survey contains a wealth of information on human rights that will be of use to policymakers and practitioners in addressing gender, children, economic, and other socio-economic issues.

The United Nations supports a wide range of other important reforms, including the revisions of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedures Code, in line with modern judicial principles and international human rights standards. Parliament is currently considering both pieces of legislation, which will be vital to protecting fundamental human rights in the Maldives. We hope that they will be enacted as soon as possible.

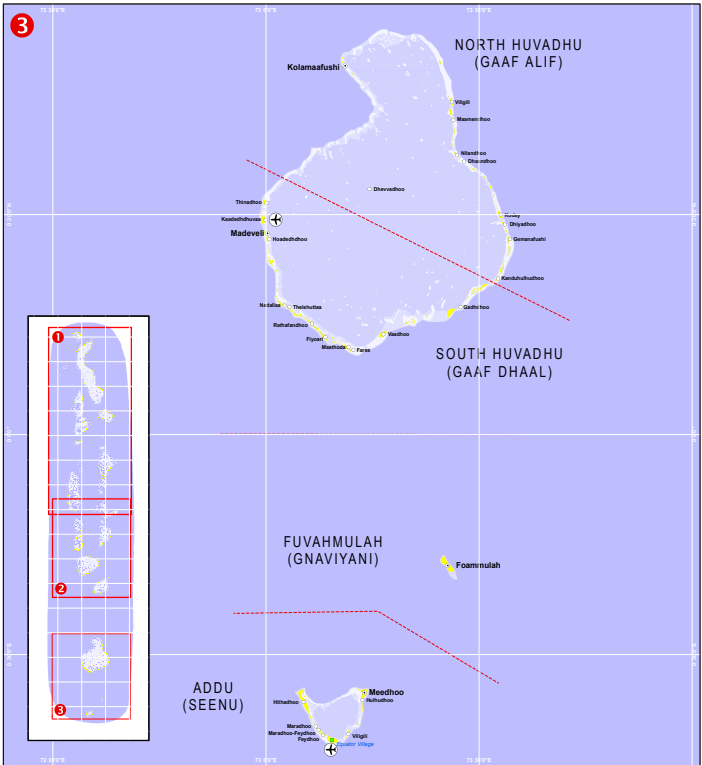
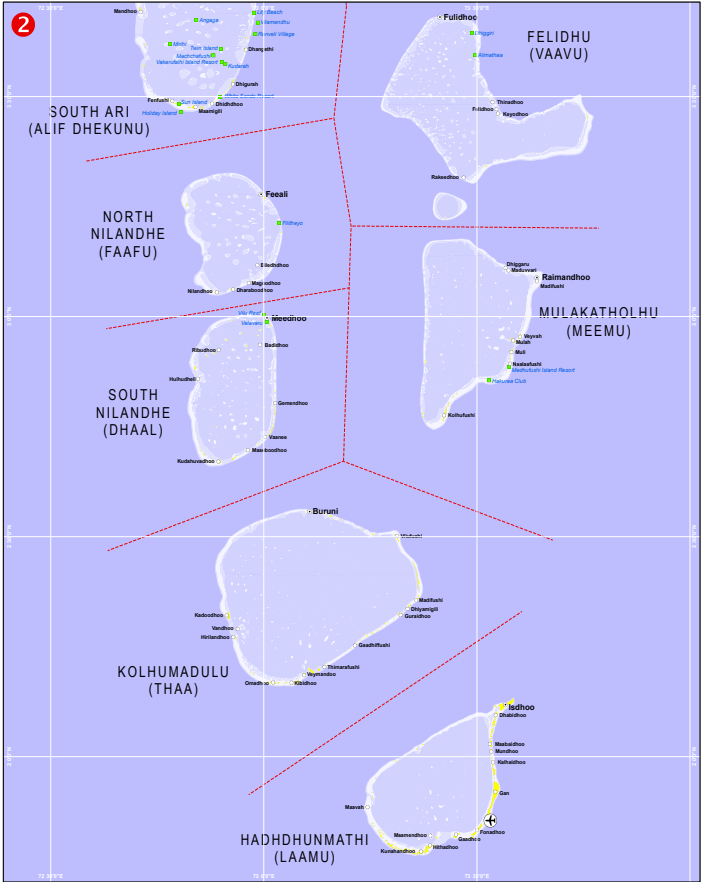
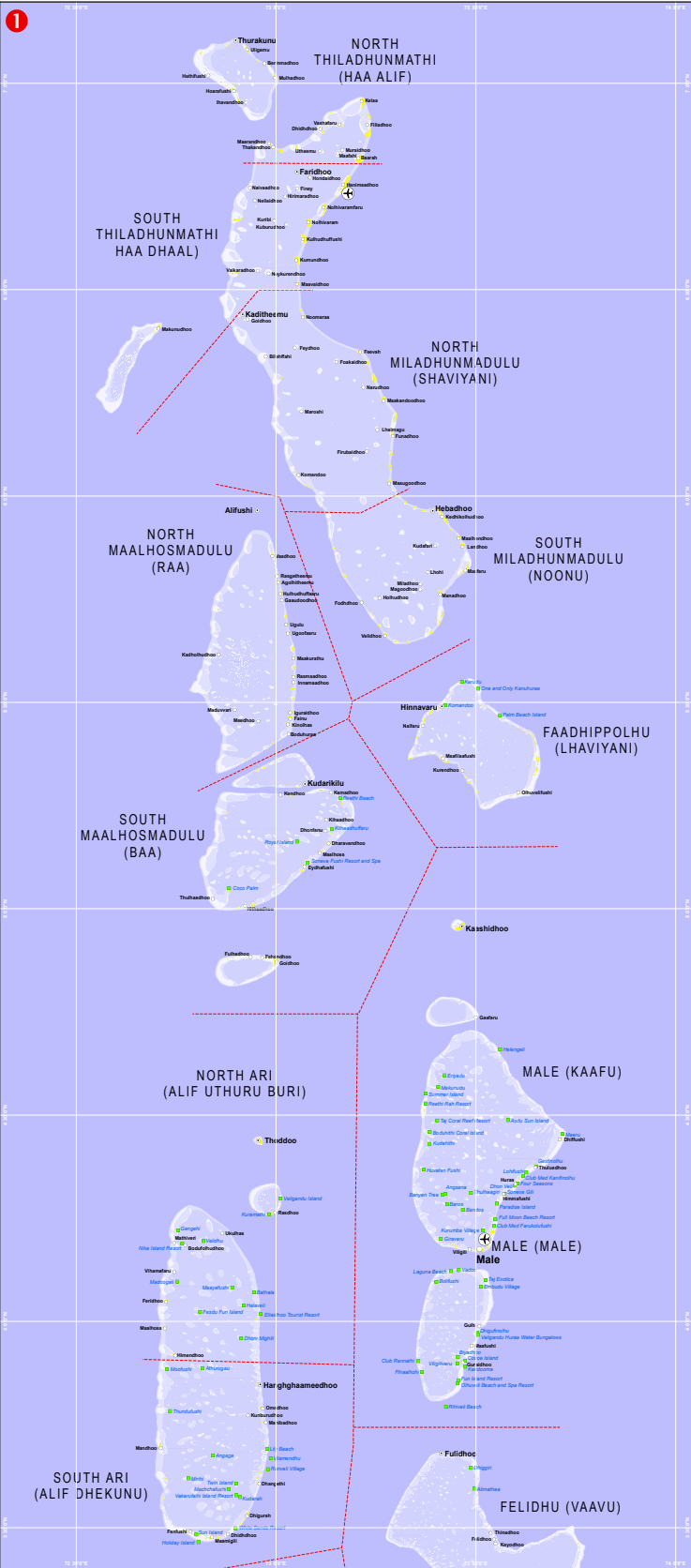
I would like to take this opportunity to underscore the commitment of the United Nations in the Maldives to the Human Rights Commission.



Patrice Coeur - Bizot
UNDP Resident Representative
Maldives

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MALDIVES: Atolls and Inhabited Islands






United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Map date: 19 December 2005
Map ref: MDV Template ADP 051219
Projection: Geographic
Datum: WGS84

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Inhabited island names from UNICEF DevInfo.
Resort island names from UNDP.
Topographical data from the University of South Florida.

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Scale: 1:500,000

0 10 20 Kilometers

0 10 20 Nautical Miles

0 10 20 Miles

Legend

★	National capital	✶	Reef-top land
●	Atoll capital	○	Coral reef
○	Inhabited island	○	Shallow lagoon
■	Resort island	○	Deep lagoon
✈	Airport	---	Atoll boundary

1. Summary of Key Findings

Awareness of HRCM

Overall, 40.8% of the adult population had heard of the Commission. Nearly half as many again (59.2%) had not heard of the Commission. Awareness was lowest among women (34.8%) and the rural population (35.6%).

Performance of HRCM

56.5% of those respondents who had heard of the Commission considered the Commission to be doing an excellent, good or satisfactory job; 24.9% thought its performance was not good, or poor. There were more women (64.8%) holding positive attitudes towards the Commission than men (46.9%). Rural people (62.1%) were more positive than the urban population (47.5%).

Role of HRCM

Even amongst those who had heard of the Commission only a quarter knew of its complaints role, and fewer knew about its other functions.

Emphasis of HRCM

Between 85% and 90% thought the Commission should be doing more of all its functions - protecting human rights, investigating complaints, promoting human rights or giving the government human rights policy advice. This view was fairly consistent, broken down across regional, administrative and urban/rural variables.

Community Human Rights Awareness

Human Rights Awareness – Self Assessment

Roughly a third of respondents considered they had expert or adequate knowledge about human rights and another 45% said they had some knowledge.

Human Rights Awareness – Objective Assessment

A more objective question indicated that respondents over-estimated their human rights knowledge. Asked to name up to three human rights which they considered the most important, fewer than 27% of respondents could identify three human rights and nearly 42% could not name any.

Most important human rights

Rights mentioned by respondents, in order of frequency, were access to good quality education and access to health services. Civil rights were also prominent, including freedom of expression in third position and the right to justice in sixth.

When asked to identify important rights from a list, most often mentioned were the right to a decent/adequate standard of living/income; freedom of expression; access to good quality of education; access to health services; employment opportunities/ right to a job; right to personal security.

Importance of Particular Human Rights

How important is the right to an standard of living that is adequate for your health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services?

95.7% of respondents considered this right (or collection of rights) very important, and a further 4.0% rated it important. These results were consistent across gender, region and administration level of the island.

A similar pattern was exhibited for a number of rights:

- the right to an standard of living that is adequate for health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services;
- the right of people with disabilities not to be discriminated against [treated unfairly];
- the rights of the elderly and people unable to support themselves to assistance from the government;
- the right of everyone to access good quality education;
- the right to personal security/ to be free from violence;
- the right to found a family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and to have a fulfilling family life;
- the right to is a safe and clean environment.

There was a further group of rights that had a slightly lower percentage rating “most important” but there was a corresponding increase in the “somewhat important” rating. Thus in the case of the right to freedom of expression, 79.2% rated the right “most important” but a further 17.7% considered this right “somewhat important”. Only 2.7% considered freedom of expression not important.

This group of rights included the following – the percentage listed for each is the total of “most important” responses, but in each case when the “somewhat important” response is added, these rights were considered important by over 94% of the population:

- the right to freedom of expression;
- the right of women to exercise [enjoy] all human rights on the basis of equality with men;
- the right to justice/right to a fair trial [fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal/court];
- freedom from arbitrary arrest or arbitrary detention/torture;
- the right to work and to just and favourable/fair conditions of work;
- the right to equal pay for equal work without discrimination;
- freedom of opinion, conscience and religion.

Only two rights did not secure this level of support - freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law, and the right to form and join trade unions, including having the right to strike.

Freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law

50.6% of respondents considered that, taken together, these were “most important” and a further 17.3%, “somewhat important”. 30.6% did not think these rights were important. Responses were consistent across gender lines. It may be significant that the survey was conducted within a few days after the events of 12 and 13 August 2005.

The right to form and join trade unions, including having the right to strike

This category divided respondents most. The number considering these rights “unimportant” ranged from 84.5% on non-administrative islands in the North to a minority 36.5% in Urban Addu and 46.7% on non-administrative islands in the South. On Male opinion was most closely divided, with 45.5% considering the rights “most important” or “somewhat important” and 51.3% considering them unimportant.

Attitudes to Women’s Rights

Women’s rights to equality

Except on the question of divorce, large majorities of both men and women respondents support the concept that women should have equal rights with men:

Supporting		
Women’s Equality in:	Rural	Urban
Family matters	88.5	78.9
Courts	81.6	76.9
Inheritance	66.9	65.6
Custody	92.1	91.1
Divorce	40.2	33.8
Work	88.5	82.6
Politics	79.0	71.7

Overall, 38.2% support equal divorce rights for women while 55.9% are opposed. Analysed by urban/rural status, women’s rights to equality were supported more in rural areas than on urban islands.

Attitudes to family and acceptable behaviour in the home

A significant proportion of the population, both men and women, consider that women have a subordinate role in the husband/wife relationship. For example, 44.9% “strongly agree” and 45.0% “agree” that a good wife always obeys her husband even if she disagrees.

There is strong support, again amongst both men and women, for family problems being discussed outside the family and for people outside the family intervening when women are mistreated by their husbands.

Asked whether men were justified in hitting their wives in a number of given circumstances, majority opinion was that men were not justified in hitting their wives for the given reasons, with one exception. Some of the reasons had very little support – for example, only 14.0% of all respondents (6.8% of men) considered not completing her housework to a husband’s satisfaction to justify his hitting her. The exception was going against Islam where approximately two-thirds of respondents considered hitting wives was justified. Overall, there was less support for men hitting their wives for the given reasons than amongst women. Analysed regionally, there was significant variation in responses.

Asked whether men should ever hit their wives, twice as many respondents agree that a man should never hit his wife as those who think he should. More men (61.5%) are opposed to hitting wives than women (53.5%).

In what circumstances are married women considered to have a right to refuse to have sex with their husbands?

A large majority of both men and women (a minimum of 75.7%) consider that a wife is entitled to refuse to have sex with her husband where she has a reason for doing so, such as if she is sick (80.7%), or he is intoxicated (78.1%). Even if she simply does not want to have sex with him, 68.2% of men and 59.8% of women consider she is entitled to refuse to do so.

Sexual Abuse of Children

Respondents were asked whether they considered sexual abuse of children to be a problem in the Maldives. They were not asked whether they themselves had been sexually abused.

Sexual abuse of girls

82.1% of respondents consider the sexual abuse of girls to be a serious problem in the Maldives, and another 12.2% say it is a problem, though not serious. More women (84.1%) considered sexual abuse of girls to be a serious problem/common issue than men (78.7%).

Sexual abuse of boys

The number of respondents who consider sexual abuse of boys to be a serious problem / common is lower, at 68.0%, but when those who think it is a problem, though not serious are added (20.2%), a large percentage (88.2%) consider sexual abuse of boys a problem. Men and women report similar levels of concern.

Equality of Access to Services

Schools and Education

Overall, 49.1% of respondents are satisfied with their education services, with 38.1% dissatisfied. However, more men are dissatisfied (46.5%) than satisfied (40.9%), whereas more women (54.1%) are satisfied than dissatisfied (33.0%). Respondents on Male' are, as might be expected when their comparative access to educational facilities is considered, the most satisfied (52.3%) and those from the South are least satisfied (33.7%).

Dissatisfied respondents listed five aspects of the education system that need improvement, in the following order:

- Better trained teachers;
- Education to higher grade on islands;
- Better facilities, such as library, laboratory;
- Improved curriculum;
- Government school curriculum available on all islands.

Access to health services, medicine and hospitals

A majority of respondents are dissatisfied (54.9%) with access to health services, whereas only 34.2% indicate satisfaction. Dissatisfaction levels are highest in the South. Men (61.1%) are more dissatisfied than women (51.0%), though there is little difference between the satisfaction levels of rural and urban dwellers.

Employment and work opportunities

More respondents are dissatisfied (51.7%) than satisfied (36.3%) and dissatisfaction is greatest in the South. Rural dwellers are more dissatisfied than urban dwellers, although the difference in the relative percentages (54.6% to 45.7%) is not large.

Access to markets

Apart from Urban/Male' (the location of the largest markets) all regions register a majority of respondents dissatisfied (46.2%) with access to markets, compared with those who are satisfied (36.7%). Among those residing in Urban/Male', those satisfied (39.3%) just outnumber those dissatisfied (36.4%). Only 17.3% are satisfied with access to markets in Urban Addu.

Transport services (ferries, air services etc)

Majorities in Urban/Male' and the North and Central regions report satisfaction with transport services. Among rural dwellers, high levels of satisfaction are recorded from administrative islands in the North (71.9%) and Central (68.6%) zones, but those who live on non-administrative islands in those two regions, and all other islands, have majorities that are dissatisfied.

Banking and credit facilities

There are significant majorities across the country expressing satisfaction with banking and credit facilities, and Urban Addu is the only zone where respondents, by a narrow margin (46.2% to 42.3%) expressed dissatisfaction with these services;

Radio, television, newspapers and postal services

Overall there is a relatively high level of satisfaction with radio, television, newspapers and postal services, though less so for urban respondents. Women respondent report significantly higher satisfaction levels (72.8 %) than do men (53.3%).

The Criminal Justice System

Justice

Overall, respondents were evenly divided between those who were satisfied with the justice system (41.5%) and those who were dissatisfied (42.1%). However, there were large variations regionally and according to whether respondents resided on an administrative island.

Significant majorities on urban islands were dissatisfied – 47.1% on Urban Male' (31.8% satisfied) and 50.0% on Urban Addu (34.6% satisfied) whereas a majority of rural dwellers (46.0% vs 39.8%) recorded satisfaction.

When those who were dissatisfied with the justice system were asked why, respondents mentioned, in order of frequency, unfair/unjust decisions; corruption; incompetent judiciary; lack of information; and lack of access to lawyers.

Police

On average, 32.1% of respondents are not satisfied with the services of the police, but 86% and 74.1% of respondents from islands in the North region are satisfied, however, although relatively high levels of satisfaction are apparent in three other zones, there is a majority of respondents in three zones who are dissatisfied with police/security services. Asked what was not working satisfactorily in the police/security system, respondents mentioned: not dealing with crimes; can't get police when we need them; lack of fairness/bias; torture; corruption; lack of information about cases/detainees; lack of access to detainees, in that order.

Prisons

Everywhere but on Urban Addu, more people were satisfied with the prison system than dissatisfied, though dissatisfaction levels were high on some islands. In urban Addu, 36.5 are satisfied and 48.1% dissatisfied. The most frequent reasons for expressed dissatisfaction included; abuse of prisoners; torture; lack of adequate access to prisoners; lack of fairness/bias; corruption; and lack of information about prisoners, in that order.

Access to Official Information

Respondents were generally very dissatisfied with their access to official information. Although overall, 45.7% of respondents were satisfied and 37.3% dissatisfied, there was majority dissatisfaction on several islands, including both urban islands (Male' and Addu).

There is widespread support (88.0%) for freedom of information legislation, among both men and women, rural and urban dwellers, and across all regions of the country.

Democratic Rights

Presidential election

70.2% said they voted in the Presidential election in October 2003, and 63.5% considered it free and fair. More rural respondents (77.5%) voted than urban dwellers (54.6%). The respondents who considered the election not to have been free and fair numbered 21.0% (25.7% on Male) – another 15.5% were undecided.

Special Majlis

In the vote for the Special Majlis in May 2004, many more rural respondents (72.3%) voted than urban (45.95%). A majority on Male' did not vote (52.9%), the only island on which there was such a majority. Overall, 66.4% (men 61.3%, women 69.5%) considered the election to be free and fair.

General Election

71.3% of respondents said they voted in the January 2005 general elections. This figure is very close to the official turnout announced by the Commissioner of Elections (73.1%). 63.5% considered the election free and fair. On Male', 56.4% voted and 51.2% agreed that the election was free and fair, compared with 21.1% who disagreed with this.

Atolls and Islands Administration

In eight out of twelve rural islands, a majority is dissatisfied with their local administration. In Urban Male' and Urban Addu, only a quarter of respondents express satisfaction with their local administration and in all but one other zone satisfaction levels are below 40%. Women express considerably more satisfaction (42.7%) than men (27.6%). Across the country, barely a quarter of men are satisfied with their local administrations.

Countrywide, twice as many respondents are dissatisfied with their Island Development Committees as are satisfied. Men (53.0%) are more dissatisfied with their Island Development Committee than women (44.5%). There are similar levels of dissatisfaction with Women's Development Committees.

Nearly 90% of the population consider that atoll chiefs and island chiefs should be elected locally. This is one of the few issues on which women (92.0%) are more critical of the status quo than men (84.7%).

There is considerable variation of opinion across the country about whether resources are fairly and equally distributed among atolls and islands. It is difficult to identify any pattern of satisfaction levels that might be based on geographical location.

Sexual Harassment

A significant number of women in the Maldives have been subjected to sexual harassment by men in both public places and at work. Nearly 30% of women have subjected to obscene or sexual comments in public places, and nearly a quarter have had their hand grabbed in a public place. Some have experienced *ungulhey* (sexual touching) in places like the street or night market and a smaller number again have had this happen to them on ferries or when swimming in public.

In the workplace, 26.7% of women respondents have been constantly subjected to obscene or sexually suggestive language/ remarks aimed at them or their female colleagues. 7.3% report that they have been touched inappropriately at work, such as rubbing up against them, being touched on the breasts or bottom or being patted, pinched or stroked.

These behaviours are particularly prevalent in the Central region, where 50.9% of all women in the Central region reported that a man had made obscene or offensive sexual comments to them. A third of those on Male' have had a similar experience.

2. Methodology

Introduction

Society in the Maldives is undergoing fundamental change – in the economic situation of at least some Maldivians, and in the culture of all. The country is recording positive economic progress overall, in comparison with other SAARC countries, and sustainable human development continues to improve, but democratic improvements are taking time to achieve.

Further, high literacy rates, at 96% (having grown from 81.6% in 1977), and the fact that many Maldivians have availed themselves of opportunities to travel to further their education, have honed divisions between the establishment and a new generation of generally younger and more worldly citizens who have become frustrated by the limitations of Maldivian political system and the lack of freedoms.

The events of September 2003 (riots in the prisons and the streets of Male') led to the President not just to establishing the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM), but also to announcing, on June 9, 2004, a programme of democratic reforms. The programme would establish a Supreme Court and provide greater independence to the judiciary, separate the powers of the head of state and government and impose a two-term limit for the presidency, among other things. The President would also lose the right to appoint eight members of the 50-seat parliament. Although, as at the date of this report, only limited progress has been made with this programme, one initiative has taken hold – the establishment, on Human Rights Day in December 2003, of an independent HRCM.

Initially set up by Presidential decree, the HRCM was strengthened in mid 2005 with the passage of an empowering law, although amendments are required, and apparently intended, to bring the law up to international standards. There has also been a delay in completing the appointment of the Commission's members. In these circumstances, the Commission is unable to function to its full capacity.

While still operating under Presidential decree, the Commission drew up an interim strategic plan for 3 years. As the Commission's membership is incomplete, and its law still requires amendment, the Commission cannot commence implementing the activities in the plan in full. However, one activity involved undertaking a baseline human rights survey to guide the Commission's work and, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, the Commission decided to undertake the survey forthwith. The information the survey contains about people's awareness of the Commission and knowledge about and attitudes towards human rights will be able to inform the commission's priorities once it is fully functioning.

Methodology

Objectives

The purpose of the study was essentially threefold, to:

- Gauge Maldivians' awareness of the existence and functions of HRCM;
- Measure their awareness of human rights, their awareness of the human rights duties to them of the authorities and the extent to which they considered their human rights were being realised; and
- Measure Maldivians' attitudes towards certain social and family issues which have an impact on the enjoyment of human rights in the Maldives.

Consultation

Given that this was the first study of its kind conducted in the Maldives, it was important to obtain as broad a range of advice and experience before the design of the study was settled. A cross-section of relevant people and institutions were consulted, from government, the private sector and civil society (including the new political parties) as well as the international community. Appendix I have a list of those consulted.

Issues canvassed during consultation included:

- Whether the interviewee was aware of any comparable studies having been undertaken in the Maldives?
- Any suggestions for the list of the population to be studied – the sampling frame;
- Any suggestions for the particular human rights the study should prioritise, given that it was unlikely that every aspect of every human right could be surveyed;
- Any suggestions for any particular groups whose views needed to be captured by the survey;
- Any suggestions for who should be consulted about the survey;
- Any general comments on the scope of the study.

The consultation established that no similar exercise had ever been attempted before in the Maldives. However, some studies had been undertaken, and data collected, that were relevant to the present survey. These are listed in Appendix II, and ranged from SAARC regional studies on Child Participation and UNDP's livelihoods study to annual statistics collected by such Ministries as Justice and Planning and national Development. It is apparent that the international community has played a significant role in most of the formal studies that have been concluded. Also worthy of note was that at the regional level, ADB had, under its regional technical assistance programme, begun the process of conducting a methodological study in each south Asian country focusing on alternative data sources available to generate social and gender statistics or to generate social statistics at the sub national level with gender breakdowns.

¹ "Compilation of Social and Gender Statistics at the National and Sub-national Level from Available Data Sources" The first activity was an inception workshop at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, was held from 28 to 31 May 2002. The purpose of the inception workshop was to provide a means of sharing existing social and gender statistics as well as experiences in compiling these statistics and in understanding the relevance of the particular task in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The human rights that were prioritised for the survey by those consulted included:

- Non-discrimination especially gender and disability;
- Security of the person;
- Justice, including arbitrary arrest, fair trial and presumption of innocence;
- Right to marry, have a family and equal rights in marriage;
- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
- Freedom of opinion and expression;
- Right to take part in government, to vote;
- Peaceful assembly;
- Economic and social rights – to work, adequate standard of living, food, housing etc;
- Right to education.

Constraints Identified:

- Cultural constraints on speaking out, given past repression;
- Logistical difficulties of conducting surveys across a scattered population with access difficulties;
- Especial sensitivity around questions relating to religion.

Sampling Design

The sample design was undertaken by Dr Abusaleh Sharrif, UNDP Consultant. The exercise represented a real challenge, given the dispersal of the Maldivian population among 200 islands spread across a vast geographical area. Since this was the first survey of its kind, there was limited information on peoples' attitudes to guide the design of the sample frame and survey size. However, based on the consultations undertaken, it was expected that there would be significant variation in human rights knowledge and attitudes among three population groups - urban Male' (and Addu, to some degree); administrative centres on the atolls; and more isolated islands. Variability was also anticipated across the usual demographics of gender and age in particular.

Cluster Sampling

Given the prohibitive cost of conducting a survey across all inhabited islands in the Maldives, or even all its atolls, a cluster sampling strategy was adopted. Cluster sampling is a technique where the entire population is divided into groups, or clusters, and a random sample of these clusters is selected. Cluster sampling is useful when a random sample would produce a list of subjects so widely scattered – as in the Maldives – that surveying them would prove to be far too expensive.

Having adopted three mutually exclusive stratifications in the sample, the number of households in the sample was increased to about 1205 households to reduce standard and non-standard errors (such as high levels of non-responses, intentional wrong reporting by respondents and non-compliance with the sampling design, for example)²

² In the event, 1092 questionnaires were completed by respondents.

The Maldives is divided into five development regions, and these regions were utilised as the first level of stratification. Within each region, certain atolls were identified randomly (depending on the region's population, either one or two atolls per region), and the atoll's administrative island selected, along with one other island selected at random. The reason for using the administrative island was that, as noted above, it was expected that people from these islands would have had relatively better exposure to markets, government and communication including media than those from more isolated islands, and might have different attitudes to human rights as a result. From each of the 14 selected islands, 45-60 households were to be identified using the households list available from the local island office. In addition, 375 households were selected on Male', and 55 on Addu, for the urban cluster.

Households having been identified, the person to be interviewed was then to be selected randomly from the household, by identifying the person aged 18 years or more who had the most recent birthday. Although the age of majority in the Maldives is 21 years, and the questions in the survey about voting, for example, would be relevant only to those over 21, consultations undertaken prior to the survey identified the need for young people to be included so that the human rights issues facing this particular sub-group could be canvassed. Initially, including respondents as young as 15 was considered, but the Commission took the decision to raise this age to 18 years, in the light of the sensitivity of a number of the questions.

The complete sampling frame is attached as Appendix III.

Qualitative Data

One reason for interviews being undertaken in people's homes was that other studies had noted a reluctance among Maldivians, both officials and members of the public, to express their true opinions in circumstances where their views could become known to the authorities. For example, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) undertook a study into the development of political parties in the Maldives. Despite all interviews undertaken by the NDI being conducted off the record, and participants being told that any statements made would not be for attribution, the NDI report records that:

"...it was clear that individuals were not comfortable speaking freely, particularly in group settings, and subsequently indicated their views to the delegation in private."³

And, further:

"Nonetheless, the delegation met with many government employees who were surprisingly critical of the government, particularly in private settings where they felt they could express their views in confidence."⁴

For this reason, and also because of the sensitive nature of some of the questions, it was important that the survey be conducted, and the questionnaire completed by the enumerator and the respondent, without an audience. Further, questions related to sexual harassment of women were administered by women enumerators or, where this was not possible, were self-administered.

³ Assessment of the Opportunities and the Challenges to the Development of Political Parties in the Maldives, The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, December 16, 2004 at p 16

⁴ Ibid, p 28

Focus Groups

It is not uncommon to supplement quantitative surveys of this nature with qualitative information, often obtained via group discussions, particularly focus groups. Also known as directed discussion groups, these exercises bring together people identified for their ability to contribute opinions from their role in the community or because of their particular interest or expertise. Information can be gathered relatively quickly via exchanges of opinion among group members in a facilitated format – the resulting data has both quantitative, but especially qualitative, characteristics.

Focus groups offer most to a survey where the participants freely and actively contribute. This can bring a qualitative dimension which it is difficult to capture using the experiential model that a quantitative survey represents. In the Maldives, however, the population is unused to being consulted for its views, let alone to being asked to contribute those views in public. After decades during which freedom of opinion and freedom of expression have been discouraged by the authorities, citizens have been used to suppressing their true opinions and being careful not to publicly air their views. In consultations for the baseline study with various of the Commission's stakeholders, it was made clear that even some of those consulted would hesitate to repeat for broad publication the views they were prepared to express in individual interviews. The result is that it has been necessary to design the quantitative questionnaire in such a way as to assure respondents that their opinions will be treated in confidence and that it is impossible to attribute to any one person the opinions brought together by the study.

Other studies, undertaken and/or underway in the Maldives, have encountered similar limitations. For example, the yet to be completed gender violence study of domestic and sexual violence undertaken using WHO tools found a considerable counter-intuitive element in its focus groups on community attitudes. What women's groups reported about male behaviour tended not to be acknowledged in men's focus groups, though there were differences in the male response from groups of different ages. Men's groups tended, for example, to condemn violence by men when it was apparent from other views that they expressed that they considered that there were circumstances when such violence was justified. It was also apparent that a number of the women in the focus groups were not prepared to say the same things in public that they would express in private. Similarly, the male discussion groups publicly condemned behaviour that they were prepared to support in private.

In these circumstances, only limited benefits were likely to accrue from asking in a group situation the human rights questions set out in the survey, some of which, as noted, were particularly sensitive. Indeed, it was likely that public responses would be less reliable than the opinions expressed to enumerators in confidence, thereby undermining the survey responses rather than elaborating on and enhancing them. In these circumstances, it was decided not to hold focus groups.

The Survey

The survey was conducted by INOVA Pvt. Ltd. for the Commission. INOVA identified a local team with some expertise in conducting large scale surveys. All enumerators were required to have completed their Ordinary levels. Basic training in human rights was provided by the HRCM during enumerator training, which was conducted in Dhivehi over two days. As part of the training workshop, a dry run was undertaken, which served as a pilot for the survey. Enumerator teams visited randomly selected households in Male'. There was some modification of the questionnaire following the dry run, which identified that enumerators required an average of 45 – 60 minutes to administer the survey instrument.

The Ministry of Planning and National Development provided VPS listing and the Census 2000 listing. The Commission informed the island authorities through island and atolls offices about the survey and when the survey teams would arrive to conduct it. The island authorities were welcoming and in most cases provided valuable support to the survey teams in obtaining food and accommodation, and in the conduct of the interviews.

3. Demographic Profiles

A total of 1095 questionnaires were completed, 749 from rural dwellers and 346 from urban households. 413 respondents were male and 682 female. The preponderance of women resulted from the decision, for ease of access and cost considerations, to use households as the “population” to be sampled and a randomly selected individual from the household as the “unit” to be interviewed. This phenomenon could have been countered by over-sampling resort workers, most of whom are men who are “internal migrants” but this option was not considered viable for cost considerations, given the use to which the survey data is to be put. However, since there are often differences in the responses of men and women, some caution needs to be exercised with “overall” data. For this reason, the responses to all questions have been disaggregated by gender.

A broad spread of age of respondent was achieved, as the following table indicates:

Age group	Percent
Under 26	28.9
26-35	30.4
36-45	24.5
46 and above	16.1

This profile approximates age-based data from the 2000 Census.

By nationality, 99.7% of the surveyed population was Maldivian.

Households

Interviewees were also asked how many people live in their household. The responses indicate a significant level of overcrowding, particularly on Male’.

Household size	less than 5	5-7	8 and above
Urban/Male’	19.9	34.8	45.3
North	30.2	43.1	26.7
North Central	36.0	37.6	26.3
Central	16.2	45.5	38.4
South Central	29.9	32.2	37.9
South	28.6	42.1	29.3
Total	26.3	38.7	35.1

A quarter of those surveyed were the head of the household, 22.7% identified themselves as the household head's spouse and a third as a child of the head of the household. Smaller percentages of respondents were children-in law (5.6%), siblings (2.9%), or parents (1.9%). 3.1% of respondents were not related to the head of household.

Education

Respondents were asked to indicate their highest level of education level achieved. The following table indicates considerable disparities in educational achievement of respondents between rural and urban dwellers. 38.1% of rural respondents had only basic literacy, whereas the figure was 16.5% for the urban population. Of the latter group, 12.5% had Grade II, undergraduate or higher qualifications, whereas only a tenth of this number of rural dwellers had attained these levels.

Resident	Basic Literacy	Certificate obtained in Maldives	Primary Grade 1 - Grade 7	Grade 8 - Grade 10	Grade 11 - Grade 12	Undergraduate and above
Rural	38.1	4.4	34.2	21.2	0.8	0.4
Urban	16.5	2.9	21.4	46.2	8.7	3.8
Total	31.2	3.9	30.1	29.1	3.3	1.5

Over a quarter of respondents had, at some time, had to leave their home to further their education ("boarders") – 32.0% of men and 26.1% of women. There was little variation on this count between rural and urban dwellers. 40% had done so for up to two years, another 30% from three to five years, and 29% for more than five years.

Employment

Approximately half of respondents were workers – 73.6% of men and 36.1% of women. Most were employees, though 9% were employers/owners. There were significant regional variations in employment status.

Status:	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Employer/ Owner	10.4	14.7	10.3	12.5	5.1	5.2	9.1
Employee	85.1	67.7	72.1	70.0	78.0	76.3	77.7
Group Worker	1.3	0.0	2.9	2.5	3.4	3.1	2.2
Own Business (self employed)	2.6	14.7	10.3	10.0	0.0	7.2	6.0
Other	0.7	2.9	4.4	5.0	13.6	8.3	5.1

Half of those people, who were employed, worked in local or national government.

Nature of Employment	Male	Female
Government employee	52.1	47.9
Business	85.7	14.3
Retailer	55.6	44.4
Tourism	100.0	0.0
Fishing	97.2	2.8
Other	42.4	57.6

Those in employment were asked a series of questions about their work – hours worked per day, days worked per month, pay and holidays received, how often they receive their pay and whether it is paid late. Respondents were also asked to estimate how their household compared economically with the other households in their community. Then there were more qualitative questions about adequacy of time off with their family (including for offsite workers) and whether they considered their pay was fair.

Maldivians work long hours, with few days off. Nearly 20% work 12 hours or more a day (26.1% of men and 11.8% of women) and only half work 8 hours per day or less. Half of respondents report that they work more than 27 days a month (i.e. have less than a day per week off), the range being from 40% in the South to nearly 68% in the North. Only 22.5% of workers receive 5 paid days holiday per month or more. Asked whether they think they have adequate time off to spend with their family, 61% agreed but 30% do not. 91.5% of respondents (only 82.4% in the South) consider that workers who are required to live on their employer's site should have time off to spend with their families in addition to normal holiday entitlements.

Monthly pay rates, in rufiyaa per month, are set out in the table below.

	Urban Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Up to 2000	14.7	21.4	20.7	28.1	48.3	23.5	23.9
2001-4000	39.7	53.6	53.4	50.0	37.9	55.3	46.6
4001-6000	28.7	10.7	20.7	9.4	13.8	12.9	19.1
6001-8000	9.6	3.6	3.4	6.3	0.0	7.1	6.0
Above 8000	7.4	10.7	1.7	6.3	0.0	1.2	4.3

80% of employees are paid monthly and 83 % report being paid on time. 65% consider the pay and benefits for the fair for the work they do, but 32% do not.

The distribution of household wealth is set out in the table below, making it clear that a reasonable distribution of household has been canvassed in the study.

	Percent
Well below average	6.1
Below average	14.3
Average	58.4
Above average	15.5
Well off	5.7

Household Amenities

A number of questions were asked about basic amenities in respondent's houses, such as electricity, rainwater tanks or storage facilities, drinking water and sanitary/sewage systems.

Only 5 households (0.46% of the total) did not have electricity, 4 of these being on Male'. The distribution of rainwater tanks/storage facilities across the country's regions is set out in the following table.

Region	Yes	No
Urban / Male'	39.0	61.0
North	80.2	19.8
North Central	53.8	46.2
Central	81.8	18.2
South Central	81.6	18.4
South	79.7	20.3
Total	62.8	37.2

Of those without such a facility, 70.9% of rural dwellers cited cost as the reason (vs. 14.7% urban). Sources of drinking water across regions are indicated by the table below:

Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Water tank	14.5	75.0	48.9	80.8	77.0	67.4	50.3
Well	0.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	2.3	8.4	2.6
Community Water Tank	2.3	14.7	41.4	3.0	13.8	12.6	13.7
Desalination Plant	19.4	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3
Water Supply	61.6	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.5
Mineral Water	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Other	0.3	8.6	8.1	15.2	5.8	10.3	6.7
Declined	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.3

The type of sanitary/sewerage system in the household is listed below:

Types of sanitary/ Sewerage System	Rural	Urban	Total
Public sewerage system	7.4	80.7	30.4
Septic Tank	62.1	5.0	44.2
Connected to sea	3.4	13.5	6.5
Toilet connected to Septic Tank	18.5	0.9	13.0
Other	8.7	0.0	6.0

Tsunami Damage

During stakeholder consultations, inequalities were mentioned in access to assistance and support for those affected by the tsunami. Some basic questions were therefore included in the questionnaire about the extent to which respondents' property (including the housing unit, sanitary unit, and water supply) had suffered damage. Respondents were also asked whether any damage had yet been repaired (the survey took place eight months after the tsunami had struck), what assistance had been received and whether that assistance was considered adequate by the respondents.

	Major Damage	Considerable Damage	Minimal Damage	No Damage
Urban / Male'	3.5	1.2	2.3	93.0
North	16.4	15.5	11.2	56.9
North Central	1.6	0.5	2.2	95.7
Central	2.0	0.0	1.0	97.0
South Central	43.0	18.6	18.6	19.8
South	15.4	9.6	6.5	68.5
Total	10.4	5.9	5.4	78.4

Since only 236 respondents indicated any level of damage from the tsunami, the following data needs to be read with some caution, as some of the percentages represent only a very limited number of respondents. With that caveat, the table indicates considerable regional variation in the degree to which respondents have been able to recover from the tsunami.

	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Fully	40.0	14.0	25.0	33.3	7.1	9.8	13.9
Somewhat	16.0	18.0	50.0	0.0	25.7	36.6	27.3
Very near Future	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	4.9	2.5
Not repaired	40.0	66.0	25.0	66.7	61.4	47.6	54.2
Declined	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	1.2	2.1

Of the support received, the great bulk of it was contributed by local and central government as the table below (of total numbers responding, not percentages) indicates. The second table

indicates how respondents rate the level of assistance they received. Again, the numbers represent individual respondents, not percentages.

Island authorities/Government	138
International organisation	7
Local NGO	9
Local community	9
Relatives	7
Friends	5
Other (UNDP)	5

	Generous	Adequate	Neither Adequate Nor Inadequate	Inadequate	Declined
Island authorities/ Government	4	76	21	32	5
International Organizations	0	5	1	1	131
Local NGO	0	2	3	4	129
Local community	0	6	2	1	129
Relatives	0	5	1	1	131
Friends	1	4	0	0	133
Other (UNDP)	1	1	2	1	133

4. Awareness of the Human Rights Commission

Key findings:

Awareness of HRCM

Overall, 40.8% of the adult population had heard of the Commission. Nearly half as many again (59.2%) had not heard of the Commission. Awareness was lowest among women (34.8%) and the rural population (35.6%).

Performance of HRCM

56.5% of those respondents who had heard of the Commission considered the Commission to be doing an excellent, good or satisfactory job; 24.9% thought its performance was not good, or poor. There were more women (64.8%) holding positive attitudes towards the Commission than men (46.9%). Rural people (62.1%) were more positive than the urban population (47.5%).

Role of HRCM

Even amongst those who had heard of the Commission only a quarter knew of its complaints role, and fewer knew about its other functions.

Emphasis of HRCM

Between 85% and 90% thought the Commission should be doing more of all its functions - protecting human rights, investigating complaints, promoting human rights or giving the government human rights policy advice. This view was fairly consistent broken down across regional, administrative and urban/rural variables.

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives is a new institution, mandated to undertake a role not hitherto fulfilled officially in the Maldives. As noted above, it has been operating only since December 2003 under Presidential decree, awaiting the passage of its enabling legislation, which finally occurred in August 2005. In the meantime, there have been limits to the extent to which the Commission can publicise both its existence, and its functions.

Now that its law has been passed by the Majlis, albeit in controversial circumstances and that amendments are required, the Commission has the legal mandate to carry out three broad roles – promotion of human rights, resolving citizen's human rights grievances and providing human rights policy advice to the authorities. Clearly it can only be successful if it makes itself well-known among the public as well as well respected. This part of the questionnaire was designed to provide the Commission with information about people's awareness of its existence and roles, public opinion about how well it has been performing and what functions respondents consider it should focus on for the future.

48 Have you heard of [are you aware of] the Maldives Human Rights Commission?

	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Yes	50.5	34.8	35.6	51.6	40.8
No	49.5	65.2	64.4	48.4	59.2

Commentary

- Overall, 40.8% of the adult population had heard of the Commission;
 - Nearly half as many again had not heard of the Commission;
 - Awareness was lowest among women (34.8%) and the rural population (35.6%).
- Given that these two groups are more likely to be more vulnerable to human rights violations, the HRCM clearly needs to raise its profile among these sectors.

Those respondents who had heard of the Commission were also asked how good a job the Commission was doing, in their opinion.

	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Excellent Job	6.7	22.9	15.9	12.9	0.0	9.2	10.5
Good Job	22.9	35.4	42.9	29.0	52.6	25.2	29.2
Satisfied	17.9	25.0	9.5	22.6	15.8	14.3	16.8
Poor Job	14.5	2.1	14.3	12.9	5.3	11.8	12.0
Worse Job	19.6	4.2	4.8	16.1	10.5	10.1	12.9
Declined	18.4	10.4	12.7	6.5	15.8	29.4	18.7

Commentary

- Overall, 56.5% considered the Commission to be doing an excellent, good or satisfactory job;
- 24.9% thought its performance was not good, or poor;
- A relatively high 18.7% declined or neglected to express a view on the issue;
- There were more women (64.8%) holding positive attitudes towards the Commission than men (46.9%);
- Rural (62.1%) were more positive than the urban population (47.5%).

Those that had heard of the Commission were also asked what they thought the role job of the Maldives Human Rights Commission is. Responses were unprompted and percentages total more than 100% since more than one answer was possible.

	%
Protect human rights	72.7
Receive/Investigate complaints about human rights	24.8
Promote/educate about/human rights	17.5
Advise the government about human rights	11.0
Other	4.5

The Commission will be concerned that even amongst those who had heard of the Commission (approximately one third of interviewees responded to this question) only a quarter knew of its complaints role, and fewer still knew about its other functions. Finally, respondents were asked, from what they know about the work of the Maldives Human Rights Commission, whether they should do more, less or about the same of protecting human rights, investigating complaints, promoting human rights or giving the government human rights policy advice. In each case between 85% and 90% thought more should be done – and this view was fairly consistent broken down across regional, administrative and urban/rural variables.

5. Community Awareness of Human Rights

Key findings:

Human Rights Awareness – Self Assessment

Roughly a third of respondents considered they had expert or adequate knowledge about human rights and another 45% said they had some knowledge.

Human Rights Awareness – Objective Assessment

A more objective question indicated that respondents over-estimated their human rights knowledge. Asked to name up to three human rights which they considered the most important, fewer than 27% of respondents could identify three human rights and nearly 42% could not name any.

Most important human rights

Rights mentioned by respondents, in order of frequency, were access to good quality education and access to health services. Civil rights were also prominent, including freedom of expression in third position and the right to justice in sixth.

When asked to identify important rights from a list, most often mentioned were the right to a decent/adequate standard of living/income; freedom of expression; access to good quality of education; access to health services; employment opportunities /Right to a job; right to personal security.

A series of questions were included in the survey instrument to assist the Commission plan its human rights education/promotion activities. First, respondents were asked to assess their own knowledge of human rights. Roughly a third considered they had expert or adequate knowledge and another 45% said they had some knowledge. However, when asked to name up to three human rights which they considered the most important, fewer than 27% could identify three human rights and nearly 42% could not name any. Men (33.9% identifying three human rights) were more aware than women (24.2%) and urban dwellers (42.5%) than rural (21.1%).

Next, the rights were listed in the frequency they were mentioned by respondents as their three most important human rights. Although access to good quality education and access to health service featured at the top of the list, civil rights were also prominent, including freedom of expression in third position and the right to justice in sixth. There were some gender variations. Whereas men put access to health services at the top of their list, women placed access to education and freedom of expression above the right to health, on their list. Children's rights were ninth on men's list, but fourth on women's. Women's rights were tenth on women's list, with more than double the number of mentions of women's rights by men.

There were also differences in ranking by rural and urban respondents. Freedom of expression was at the top of the urban list, and the right to justice third. Access to health services was at the top of the rural list, though only ranked fourth by urban respondents, presumably because urban respondents already enjoy better access to health services, so it becomes less of a priority in a list of this nature.

A somewhat different outcome occurred when respondents were asked to rank their ten most important human rights from a list of such rights. The list had been compiled in from the stakeholder consultation undertaken before the survey commenced.

Name of Human Rights (mentioned at any level in respondents' top ten)	Percent
Access to health services	82.4
Access to good quality of education	77.8
Children's rights	70.0
Employment opportunities/Right to a job/work	64.9
Freedom of expression	61.8
Right to personal security/ to be free from violence	52.8
Right to justice/a fair trial	52.1
Women's rights to equality	49.8
A secure family life	45.6
Right to a decent/adequate standard of living/income	45.1
Adequate food	42.7
Safe and clean environmental	41.6
Security of property	40.7
Freedom from arbitrary arrest/torture	36.8
Right to fair conditions of work (including fair pay)	36.0
Freedom of opinion, conscience and religion	35.2
Adequate/decent standard of housing	34.2
Right to vote/participate in government	23.4
The right not to be required [forced] to undertake community work	21.9
Freedom of association, including the right to form political parties and trade unions	18.8
Freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law	17.9
Freedom of movement, including the right to stay on the island of one's choice and adequate transport services	15.0

6. Importance of Particular Human Rights

Key findings:

How important is the right to a standard of living that is adequate for the your health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services

95.7% of respondents considered this right (or collection of rights) very important, and a further 4.0% rated it important. These results were consistent across gender, region and administration level of the island.

A similar pattern was exhibited for a number of rights:

- the right to a standard of living that is adequate for health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services;
- the right of people with disabilities not to be discriminated against [treated unfairly];
- the rights of the elderly and people unable to support themselves to assistance from the government;
- the right of everyone to access good quality education;
- the right to personal security/ to be free from violence;
- the right to found a family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and to have a fulfilling family life;
- the right to a safe and clean environment.

There was a further group of rights that had a slightly lower percentage rating “most important” but there was a corresponding increase in the “somewhat important” rating. Thus in the case of the right to freedom of expression, 79.2% rated the right “most important” but a further 17.7% considered this right “somewhat important”. Only 2.7% considered freedom of expression not important.

This group of rights included the following – the percentage listed for each is the total of “most important” responses, but in each case when the “somewhat important” response is added, these rights were considered important by over 94% of the population:

- the right to freedom of expression;
- the right of women to exercise [enjoy] all human rights on the basis of equality with men;
- the right to justice/right to a fair trial [fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal/court];
- freedom from arbitrary arrest or arbitrary detention/torture;
- the right to work and to just and favourable/fair conditions of work;
- the right to equal pay for equal work without discrimination;
- freedom of opinion, conscience and religion.

Only two rights did not secure this level of support - freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law, and the right to form and join trade unions, including having the right to strike.

Freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law

50.6% of respondents considered that, taken together, these were “most important” and a further 17.3%, “somewhat important”. 30.6% did not think these rights were important. Responses were consistent across gender lines. It may be significant that the survey was conducted within a few days after the events of 12 and 13 August 2005.

The right to form and join trade unions, including having the right to strike

This category divided respondents most. The number considering these rights “unimportant” ranged from 84.5% on non-administrative islands in the North to a minority 36.5% in Urban Addu and 46.7% on non-administrative islands in the South. On Male’ opinion was most closely divided, with 45.5% considering the rights “most important” or “somewhat important” and 51.3% considering them unimportant.

The previous section of the questionnaire looked at people’s awareness of human rights – first by rating their own knowledge and then by ascertaining how many specific human rights they could name. It also looked at which human rights were considered the most important ten.

In this section of the survey, the enumerator asked respondents to comment on how important they considered specific human rights were – they were asked to rate or rank each rights according to whether the respondent thought the right is: very important, somewhat important, or not important. The rights listed were the same as those used in the previous section.

Many of the rights listed were given the highest level of importance by the great majority of respondents. For example, 95.7% of respondents considered the right to a standard of living that is adequate for health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, very important, and a further 4% rated this right (or collection of rights) important. These results were consistent across gender, region and administration level of the island.

A similar pattern was exhibited for a number of rights:

- the right to a standard of living that is adequate for health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services;
- the right of people with disabilities not to be discriminated against [treated unfairly];
- the rights of the elderly and people unable to support themselves to assistance from the government;
- the right of everyone to access good quality education;
- the right to personal security/ to be free from violence;
- the right to found a family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and to have a fulfilling family life;
- the right to is a safe and clean environment.

Over 90% of respondents rated these rights “most important” and over 95% rated them either most important or somewhat important. In each case, less than 1% thought they were not important.

There was a further group of rights that had a slightly lower percentage rating “most important” but there was a corresponding increase in the “somewhat important” rating. Thus in the case of the right to freedom of expression, 79.2% rated the right “most important” but a further 17.7% considered this right “somewhat important”. Only 2.7% considered freedom of expression not important.

This group of rights included the following – the percentage listed for each is the total of “most important” responses, but in each case when the “somewhat important” response is added, these rights were considered important by over 94% of the population:

- the right to freedom of expression (79.2% most important);
- the right of women to exercise [enjoy] all human rights on the basis of equality with men (80.9%);
- the right to justice/right to a fair trial [fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal/court] (88.5%);
- freedom from arbitrary arrest or arbitrary detention/torture (83.1%);
- the right to work and to just and favourable/fair conditions of work (87.2%);
- the right to equal pay for equal work without discrimination (89.8%);
- freedom of opinion, conscience and religion (87.0%).

Only two rights did not secure this level of support - freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law, and the right to form and join trade unions, including having the right to strike.

Freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law

It was to be expected that more controversial rights and freedoms would find a greater range of opinions, and so it proved in relation to freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law. Overall, 50.6% of respondents considered that, taken together, these were “most important” and a further 17.3%, “somewhat important”. 30.6% did not think these rights were important. Responses were remarkably consistent across gender lines. It may be significant that the survey was conducted within a few days after the events of 12 and 13 August.

There was more variation across the regions of the country, and even more depending on the administrative status of the respondent’s island. Thus in the Central region 62.9% thought these rights “most important” and in the South this figure rose to 64.6%. On the other hand, in the North only 35.7% of responses were in the “most important” category. In the Urban/Male’ regions, where most recent protests have occurred, opinion was more evenly divided. 42.3% thought these rights “most important”, considerably less than the national average, and 34.8% considered them not important at all. However, low “most important” rates tended to be balanced by higher “somewhat important” responses. Thus there is much less variation across the country in the “not important” category, ranging from 25.8% (Central) to 34.8% (Urban/Male’).

Analysed by the administrative status of the respondent's island, the highest support was registered in the non-administrative island population in the South (73.3% considering these rights to be "most important") followed by Urban Addu (73.1%). In half the six regions, those on administrative islands were less in favour of these rights than those on non-administrative ones. For example, in North Central, 39.1% of those on administrative islands thought these rights "not important" whereas the figure on non-administrative islands dropped to 29.8%. There was a similar pattern in the South and Urban/Male'. This might have been anticipated, since those on islands with the administrative centre might be thought to be more aligned to the authorities, against whom protests take place. On the other hand, in the Central region, double those on non-administrative islands (34.4%) considered these rights not important, when compared with those on islands with the administrative centre (17.7%). There was a similar balance in the North and South Central.

It is worthy of note that only 15.4% of respondents in the Addu region, where there have been protests and disturbances in recent months, thought that freedom of opinion and the right to protest within the law were not important.

The right to form and join trade unions, including having the right to strike

This category, which combined both the right to form and join trade unions with the right to strike, divided respondents most. The number considering these rights "unimportant" ranged from 84.5% on non-administrative islands in the North to a minority 36.5% in Urban Addu and 46.7% on non-administrative islands in the South. On Male' opinion was most closely divided, with 45.5% considering the rights "most important" or "somewhat important" and 51.3% considering them unimportant.

This was also the only category where those considering the rights not important outnumbered those who thought them "most important" or "somewhat important", though the margin was relatively close in Male', as noted in the previous paragraph, and in the South there was a narrow majority in support of the importance of these rights by 50% to 48.9%.

There was little variation in responses from men and women, with 56.3% of men and 56.9% of women expressing the view that these rights were not important.

7. Women's Rights

Key findings:

Attitudes to women's rights

Except on the question of divorce, large majorities of both men and women respondents support the concept that women should have equal rights with men:

Supporting

Women's Equality in:	Rural	Urban
Family matters	88.5	78.9
Courts	81.6	76.9
Inheritance	66.9	65.6
Custody	92.1	91.1
Divorce	40.2	33.8
Work	88.5	82.6
Politics	79.0	71.7

Overall, 38.2% support equal divorce rights for women while 55.9% are opposed. Analysed by urban/rural status, women's rights to equality were supported more in rural areas than on urban islands.

Attitudes to family and acceptable behaviour in the home

A significant proportion of the population, both men and women, consider that women have a subordinate role in the husband/wife relationship. For example, 44.9% "strongly agree" and 45.0% "agree" that a good wife always obeys her husband even if she disagrees.

There is strong support, again amongst both men and women, for family problems being discussed outside the family and for people outside the family intervening when women are mistreated by their husbands.

Asked whether men were justified in hitting their wives in a number of given circumstances, majority opinion was that men were not justified in hitting their wives for the given reasons, with one exception. Some of the reasons had very little support – for example, only 14.0% of all respondents (6.8% of men) considered not completing her housework to a husband's satisfaction to justify his hitting her. The exception was going against Islam where approximately two-thirds of respondents considered hitting wives was justified. Overall, there was less support for men hitting their wives for the given reasons than amongst women.

Analysed regionally, there was significant variation in responses.

Asked whether men should ever hit their wives, twice as many respondents agree that a man should never hit his wife as those who think he should. More men (61.5%) are opposed to hitting wives than women (53.5%).

A large majority of both men and women (a minimum of 75.7%) consider that a wife is entitled to refuse to have sex with her husband where she has a reason for doing so, such as if she is sick (80.7%), or he is intoxicated (78.1%). Even if she simply does not want to have sex with him, 68.2% of men and 59.8% of women consider she is entitled to refuse to do so.

As part of its research on gender-based violence in the Maldives, the Ministry of Gender, Family Development and Social Security (MGFDSS) conducted focus group discussions on Male' between April and July 2004. The purpose of the focus groups was to learn about community attitudes towards gender-based violence. Each focus group discussion consisted of 8-10 participants, selected randomly:

1. Males 15-20 years
2. Males 20-35 years
3. Males 35-49 years
4. Females 15-20 years
5. Females 20-35 years
6. Females 35-49 years

The focus groups made observations about the following issues:

- Domestic abuse – including financial, emotional and sexual abuse;
- Child sexual abuse;
- Workplace harassment;
- Severe domestic violence;
- Statements about women's roles and obligations

The results of the research have yet to be officially published. However, it was thought important to replicate some of the same issues to ascertain the extent to which the results of a population-based survey are borne out by the MGFDSS study. When the MGFDSS is officially published, the results can be compared with the present survey. For this reason, the same "statements" were used in both studies. These were as follows:

- *A good wife always obeys her husband;*
- *Family problems should only be discussed with people in the family;*
- *It is important for a man to show his wife/partner who is the boss;*
- *It is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband whenever he wants;*
- *If a man mistreats his wife, others in the family should intervene;*

In the MGFDSS research, focus group participants were also asked whether, in their opinion, a man has good reason to hit his wife if:

- *She does not complete her housework to his satisfaction*
- *She disobeys him;*
- *She refuses to have sexual relations with him;*
- *She asks him whether he has other girlfriends;*
- *He suspects she is unfaithful;'*
- *He finds out that she has been unfaithful*

Bearing the MGFDSS research in mind, the present study examined attitudes towards women's rights, attitudes to family and ideas about acceptable behaviour in the home (including when a man might have a good reason to hit his wife and whether, and in what circumstances, a married woman might refuse to have sex with her husband.

Clearly, this section of the survey involved extremely sensitive issues. Every effort was made to ensure that people's answers were kept confidential [detail] and that this was clearly understood by respondents. Enumerators prefaced their questioning in this section with the following statement:

“In this community, people have different views about women's rights to equality with men in the family, in the courts, in relation to custody of children and on dissolution of marriage and their rights to inheritance. The Human Rights Commission is interested in your confidential opinion about some of these issues.”

Attitudes to Women's Rights

The following tables represent responses to a series of question to respondents, both men and women, about their attitudes towards a number of women's rights issues. Commentary follows at the end of this section.

74 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in family matters?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	35.4	44.8	41.2
Agree	49.4	41.1	44.2
Indecisive	3.6	3.7	3.7
Don't agree	8.7	8.4	8.5
Strongly disagree	2.7	0.9	1.6
Declined	0.2	1.2	0.8

75 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men before the courts?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	31.5	38.0	35.5
Agree	49.6	41.4	44.5
Indecisive	4.1	3.4	3.7
Don't agree	11.4	13.0	12.4
Strongly disagree	2.4	1.9	2.1
Declined	1.0	2.4	1.8

76 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men to inheritance?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	25.9	28.7	27.7
Agree	38.7	38.9	38.8
Indecisive	6.3	2.7	4.0
Don't agree	19.9	22.2	21.3
Strongly disagree	7.0	4.3	5.3
Declined	2.2	3.2	2.8

77 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in relation to the custody of children?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	39.0	45.4	43.0
Agree	52.8	47.4	49.5
Indecisive	1.5	0.9	1.1
Don't agree	5.3	4.7	5.0
Strongly disagree	1.2	0.9	1.0
Declined	0.2	0.7	0.6

78 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in relation to divorce?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	11.4	20.6	17.1
Agree	17.9	23.0	21.1
Indecisive	3.9	2.7	3.1
Don't agree	36.6	35.2	35.7
Strongly disagree	29.1	14.9	20.2
Declined	1.2	3.7	2.8

79 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in relation to work?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	33.7	42.0	38.8
Agree	50.9	46.0	47.8
Indecisive	3.9	1.8	2.6
Don't agree	8.0	8.1	8.1
Strongly disagree	3.4	1.2	2.0
Declined	0.2	1.0	0.7

80 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men to take part in the government and be elected to political positions?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	24.8	33.0	29.9
Agree	48.1	46.0	46.8
Indecisive	2.4	3.8	3.3
Don't agree	17.0	11.6	13.7
Strongly disagree	7.5	2.5	4.4
Declined	0.2	3.1	2.0

Commentary

A number of conclusions can be drawn from the tables identified above:

- Except on the question of divorce, there are large majorities in support of the concept that women should have equal rights with men;
- This majority support exists among both men and women. While more women are likely to express “strong agreement”, more men express mere “agreement”. When these two categories are combined, support for women’s rights to equality is very similar across gender, as the following table illustrates. Real divergence of opinion emerges only in relation to divorce, where, although neither gender has a majority in favour of women’s equal rights, women (at 43.6%) are significantly more supportive than men (29.3%)

Supporting Women’s Equality in:	Male	Female
Family matters	84.9	85.9
Courts	81.1	79.4
Inheritance	64.6	67.6
Custody	91.8	92.8
Divorce	29.3	43.6
Work	84.6	88.0
Politics	72.9	79.0

- The divorce issue is the only one where there is significant opposition, and significant strong disagreement. 29.1% of men and 14.9% of women say they “strongly disagree” with women’s equal rights to divorce. Overall, 38.2% support equal divorce rights for women while 55.9% are opposed;
- Analysed by urban/rural status, support for women’s rights to equality were more supported in rural areas than on urban islands. This was not a trend that was identified by stakeholders consulted during the design of the survey instrument, who generally expressed the view was that rural and urban opinions needed to be identified separately because urban dwellers could be expected to be more supportive of women’s human rights than those on rural islands. In fact, the opposite was true for this aspect of the survey:

Supporting Women’s Equality in:	Rural	Urban
Family matters	88.5	78.9
Courts	81.6	76.9
Inheritance	66.9	65.6
Custody	92.1	91.1
Divorce	40.2	33.8
Work	88.5	82.6
Politics	79.0	71.7

- When analysed by region and administrative status, it is apparent that the lower level of support for women's rights identified for those from urban islands are derived from Male, not urban Addu – the South region is generally more supportive of women's equality than any of the other four regions, and Male is among the least supportive regions on all equality issues.

Attitudes to family and acceptable behaviour in the home

This section of the survey instrument asked certain attitudinal questions about family relationships and women's role. The questions were as follows:

- **81** A good wife always obeys her husband even if she disagrees;
- **82** Family problems should only be discussed with people in the family;
- **83** It is important for a man to show his wife who is the boss;
- **84** A woman should be able to choose her friends even if her husband disapproves;
- **85** It is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn't feel like it;
- **86** If a man mistreats his wife, others outside the family should intervene

Respondents, who included both men and women, were asked, in respect of each of these statements, whether they would:

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

In recognition of the sensitive nature of the questions, respondents were reminded again that questionnaire was confidential and that no-one else in their community would know what answers had been given to the questions. The following tables set out the responses, disaggregated by gender, to each of the six questions. A commentary follows at the end of the tables.

81 A good wife always obeys her husband even if she disagrees:			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	41.5	47.0	44.9
Agree	45.6	44.6	45.0
Indecisive	1.9	1.0	1.4
Don't agree	7.5	5.3	6.1
Strongly disagree	1.0	0.9	0.9
Declined	2.4	1.2	1.7

82 Family problems should only be discussed with people in the family:			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	24.0	23.4	23.7
Agree	40.1	38.9	39.3
Indecisive	4.6	3.5	3.9
Don't agree	26.2	27.4	27.0
Strongly disagree	4.4	5.9	5.3
Declined	0.7	0.9	0.8

83 It is important for a man to show his wife who is the boss:			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	38.4	38.6	38.5
Agree	48.5	47.4	47.9
Indecisive	3.9	1.3	2.3
Don't agree	5.6	8.1	7.2
Strongly disagree	1.5	3.4	2.7
Declined	2.2	1.2	1.6

84 A women should be able to choose her friends even if her husband disapproves:			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	18.2	18.4	18.3
Agree	34.5	27.8	30.3
Indecisive	4.9	2.4	3.3
Don't agree	28.4	39.6	35.4
Strongly disagree	13.1	10.8	11.6
Declined	1.0	1.0	1.0

85 It is wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn't feel like it:			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	16.0	20.8	19.0
Agree	32.2	41.8	38.2
Indecisive	7.5	3.5	5.0
Don't agree	32.9	24.3	27.6
Strongly disagree	7.5	5.5	6.2
Declined	3.9	4.1	4.0

86 If a man mistreats his wife, others outside the family should intervene:			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	41.4	39.2	40.0
Agree	48.2	49.9	49.3
Indecisive	2.9	1.9	2.3
Don't agree	5.3	6.9	6.3
Strongly disagree	0.7	1.3	1.1
Declined	1.5	0.7	1.0

Commentary

- The information in the six tables above will be useful for the Commission when it determines its priorities for education and human rights promotion. It will be particularly important if the Commission decides to prioritise the issues of gender-based violence and discrimination against women as human rights issues. The attitudes expressed in the survey make it clear that in the Maldives a significant proportion of the population, both men and women, consider that women have a subordinate role in the husband/wife relationship. It is widely considered among stakeholders that violence against women is based on such inequality.
- There will be some encouragement in the answers to Questions 82 and 86. There is strong support, again amongst both men and women, for family problems being discussed outside the family and for people outside the family intervening when women are mistreated by their husbands. Other reports have indicated that many people consider addressing gender-based violence should be kept within the family and that outsiders should not interfere;
- There was some variation in results when disaggregated by urban/rural status, by region, and by administrative status but by and large the views identified in the tables above are clearly widely held independent of these variables.

Justifications for Men Hitting Their Wives

In this section of the survey instrument, interviewees were asked to respond to a series of justifications traditionally advanced for men hitting their wives. The questions are the same as those canvassed with focus groups in Male as part of the MGFDDSS research into gender-based violence, with two additions (the last two questions).

Respondents were asked if a man have a good reason to hit his wife if:

- She does not complete her housework to his satisfaction;
- She disobeys him;
- She refuses to have sex with him;
- She asks him whether he has other girl-friends;
- He suspects that she is unfaithful;
- He finds out that she has been unfaithful;
- She goes against Islam? [haraam];
- She beats the children.

A commentary follows at the end of all the questions in this section.

87 She does not complete her housework to his satisfaction			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	6.8	18.4	14.0
No	92.0	81.0	85.2
Decline	1.2	0.6	0.8

88 She disobeys him			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	25.7	45.1	37.7
No	73.1	53.5	60.9
Decline	1.2	1.5	1.4

89 She refuses to have sex with him			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	12.8	28.3	22.4
No	85.2	68.6	74.9
Decline	1.9	3.1	2.7

90 She asks him whether he has other girl-friends			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	13.3	16.4	15.2
No	85.5	82.2	83.4
Decline	1.2	1.5	1.4

91 He suspects that she is unfaithful			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	14.3	21.7	18.9
No	83.3	76.3	78.9
Decline	2.4	2.1	2.2

92 He finds out that she has been unfaithful			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	40.2	51.6	47.3
No	58.1	46.4	50.8
Decline	1.7	2.1	1.9

93 She goes against Islam [haraam]			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	57.1	71.6	66.1
No	41.4	26.5	32.1
Decline	1.5	1.9	1.7

94 She beats the children			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	41.9	51.3	47.7
No	56.2	46.7	50.3
Decline	1.9	2.1	2.0

Commentary

- The answers given by respondents in the previous section, about family and relationship attitudes, appeared to indicate that the attitudes that tend to be behind gender-based violence were prevalent in the population surveyed. In the present section, more direct questions were asked about the traditional justifications for violence against wives;
- There were a number of consistencies across the answers to all questions. In every case, women agreed with the particular justification for violence more often than men did. In the case of some answers, the difference was considerable. For example, 45.1% of women considered that husbands had good reason to beat their wives if they were disobeyed, but only 25.7% of men agreed with this proposition. Similarly, 28.3% of women said that refusing to have sex with their husband was justification for beating them, though only 12.8% of men thought this;
- In all but one justification, majority opinion was that men were not justified in hitting their wives for the given reasons. Some of the reasons had very little support – for example, only 14.0% of all respondents (6.8% of men) considered not completing her housework to a husband's satisfaction to justify his hitting her. The exception was going against Islam where approximately two-thirds of respondents considered hitting wives was justified although two other reasons (husband finding out that his wife has been unfaithful, and the wife hitting the children) were disapproved of by only narrow majorities;
- When analysed regionally, there was significant variation in responses. For example, the percentages of those considering failure to do satisfactory housework to justify hitting wives were as follows:

o	Urban/Male'	5.8%
o	North	17.4%
o	North Central	23.7%
o	Central	14.4%
o	South Central	12.6%
o	South	16.9%

Four times as many respondents from the North Central region than the Urban/Male' region considered men were entitled to hit their wives because housework was not done to their satisfaction;

- Disaggregated according to whether or not the island was the administrative centre did give considerable variations though these were not consistent. Sometimes answers from an

administrative island would be more supportive of a particular justification than from a non-administrative island, but for other justifications, as often as not the position was reversed.

Should a man ever hit his wife?

To complete this section of the survey, respondents were asked two further questions. The first question was: In your opinion, a man should never hit his wife?

Five possible responses were available – strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree and strongly disagree. The following tables show results disaggregated by gender, by region and by administrative status. A commentary follows the tables.

96 A man should never hit his wife			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly agree	35.1	30.8	32.4
Agree	26.4	22.7	24.1
Indecisive	15.5	16.6	16.2
Don't agree	17.2	23.0	20.8
Strongly disagree	4.8	5.5	5.2
Declined	1.0	1.5	1.3

96 A man should never hit his wife			
	Rural	Urban	Total
Strongly agree	28.7	40.5	32.4
Agree	24.3	23.7	24.1
Indecisive	16.9	14.7	16.2
Don't agree	22.7	16.8	20.8
Strongly disagree	6.3	2.9	5.2
Declined	1.2	1.5	1.3

96 A man should never hit his wife						
Admin Status	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indecisive	Strongly Disagree	Declined	Disagree
North Administration	38.6	22.8	12.3	21.1	5.3	0.0
North Other	43.1	24.1	1.7	31.0	0.0	0.0
North Central Admin	39.1	19.6	20.7	16.3	3.3	1.1
North Central Other	28.7	23.4	17.0	18.1	10.6	2.1
Central Admin	29.4	29.4	27.5	5.9	3.9	3.9
Central Other	34.8	30.4	30.4	2.2	2.2	0.0
South Central Admin	44.2	20.9	9.3	20.9	4.7	0.0
South Central Other	47.7	25.0	9.1	13.6	4.6	0.0
South Administration	15.4	37.5	19.2	25.0	2.9	0.0
South Other	12.4	20.0	17.1	36.2	13.3	1.0
Urban/ Male'	40.5	23.7	14.7	16.8	2.9	1.5
Urban Addu	7.7	9.6	17.3	46.2	13.5	5.8
Total	32.4	24.1	16.2	20.8	5.2	1.3

96 A man should never hit his wife							
Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Strongly Agree	40.5	40.9	33.9	32.0	46.0	12.6	32.4
Agree	23.7	23.5	21.5	29.9	23.0	24.9	24.1
Indecisive	14.7	7.0	18.8	28.9	9.2	18.0	16.2
Don't agree	16.8	26.1	17.2	4.1	17.2	33.7	20.8
Strongly disagree	2.9	2.6	7.0	3.1	4.6	9.2	5.2
Declined	1.5	0.0	1.6	2.1	0.0	1.5	1.3

Commentary

- Twice as many respondents agree that a man should never hit his wife as those who think he should. Again, more men (61.5%) are opposed to hitting wives than women (53.5%).
- There is a significant proportion of “undecided”, and, of those who disagree that men should never hit their wives, most do not hold that opinion strongly (5.2%);
- Disaggregated by urban/rural variability, there is slightly higher range, Urban/Male ranking highly on the “strongly agree” option;
- By administrative status, there are few discernable patterns, though considerable variation, from a remarkably low of 17.3% in Urban Addu in agreement that men should never hit their wives (combining “strongly agree” and “agree” responses), to highs of 64.2% on Urban Male, 67.2% on non-administrative islands in the Northern region and 72.7% in non-administrative islands in the South Central region;

- When the issue is looked at regionally, the South is the only region where more respondents agreed with hitting wives – 42.9% compared with 37.5% who were opposed to the proposition.

In what circumstances are married women considered to have a right to refuse to have sex with their husbands?

Question 97 asked whether a married woman can refuse to have sex with her husband in five different circumstances, viz:

- She doesn't want to;
- He is intoxicated;
- She is sick;
- He mistreats her;
- He asks her to do something against Islam

There is a commentary at the conclusion of the tables.

(i) If she doesn't want to?			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	68.2	59.8	63.0
No	27.9	36.1	33.0
Decline	3.9	4.1	4.0

(ii) If he is intoxicated?			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	81.1	76.3	78.1
No	15.3	19.6	18.0
Decline	3.6	4.1	3.9

(iii) If she is sick?			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	85.0	78.1	80.7
No	12.4	19.2	16.6
Decline	2.7	2.8	2.8

(iv) If he mistreats her?			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	77.7	74.5	75.7
No	18.9	22.5	21.2
Decline	3.4	3.0	3.1

(v) If he asks her to do something against Islam			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	81.6	78.4	79.6
No	14.5	19.2	17.4
Decline	3.9	2.5	3.0

Commentary

- A large majority of both men and women (a minimum of 75.7%) consider that a wife is entitled to refuse to have sex with her husband where she has a reason for doing so, such as if she is sick (80.7%), or he is intoxicated (78.1%)
- Even if she simply does not want to have sex with him, 68.2% of men and 59.8% of women consider she is entitled to refuse to do so;
- As with other questions, more men support women refusing to have sex than women themselves, the largest margin applying where she does not want to have sex - 68.2% agreeing that she is entitled to refuse against 59.8% of women who have this view;
- The right to refuse, for any reason, is supported most strongly in the North Central, Central and South Central, and least in the North and South regions;
- As with answers to the previous question about men never hitting wives, a wife's right to refuse sex is supported least in the South, by a considerable margin, particularly in Urban Addu, where only 27.5% considered a wife entitled to refuse sex if she didn't want to, against the national average of 63.0%. Even where a wife is asked to do something against Islam, 42.5% of Urban Addu respondents did not consider she was entitled to refuse sex, whereas between 90% and 100% in the North Central, Central and South Central regions thought this a valid reason to refuse sex;
- There were minor differences between islands with an administrative centre and those without, though no pattern that this variable was relevant to the responses.

8. Sexual Abuse of Children

Key findings:

Respondents were asked whether they considered sexual abuse of children to be a problem in the Maldives. They were not asked whether they themselves had been sexually abused.

82.1% of respondents consider the sexual abuse of girls to be a serious problem in the Maldives, and another 12.2% say it is a problem, though not serious. More women (84.1%) considered sexual abuse of girls to be a serious problem/common issue than men (78.7%).

The number of respondents who consider sexual abuse of boys to be a serious problem/common is lower, at 68.0%, but when those who think it is a problem, though not serious are added (20.2%), a large percentage (88.2%) consider sexual abuse of boys a problem. Men and women report similar levels of concern.

Children have a right not to be sexually abused by adults. Stakeholders consulted about the design of the survey considered the issue was a sufficiently important human rights issue to warrant inclusion. It was not possible in a survey of this nature to fully examine the prevalence of sexual abuse – but two questions were asked to canvass the extent to which respondents thought the sexual abuse of children is a problem in the Maldives. Separate questions were asked in relation to sexual abuse of girls, and of boys. In each case, respondents were asked whether they thought the issue was a serious problem/common issue; a problem, but not serious/frequent; or not a problem/common at all.

It should be noted that the questions did not attempt to measure the actual frequency of sexual abuse, since that would have required the respondents to be asked whether they themselves had been abused. It would not have been appropriate to ask such a question in a broad based survey of this nature, at least without ensuring appropriate support and follow up.

98 How serious do you consider the sexual abuse of girls to be in the Maldives?

	Male	Female	Total
A serious problem	78.7	84.1	82.1
A problem, but not serious	14.3	10.9	12.2
Not a problem	3.6	2.1	2.7
Declined	3.4	3.0	3.1

98 How serious do you consider the sexual abuse of girls to be in the Maldives?

	Rural	Urban	Total
A serious problem	83.2	79.5	82.1
A problem, but not serious	11.7	13.3	12.2
Not a problem	2.8	2.3	2.7
Declined	2.3	4.9	3.1

99 How serious do you consider the sexual abuse of boys to be in the Maldives?			
	Male	Female	Total
A serious problem	68.5	67.6	68.0
A problem, but not serious	20.1	20.2	20.2
Not a problem	6.3	7.4	7.0
Declined	5.1	4.9	5.0

99 How serious do you consider the sexual abuse of boys to be in the Maldives?			
	Rural	Urban	Total
A serious problem	71.1	61.3	68.0
A problem, but not serious	18.2	24.3	20.2
Not a problem	7.2	6.4	7.0
Declined	3.5	8.1	5.0

Commentary

- 82.1% of respondents consider the sexual abuse of girls to be a serious problem in the Maldives, and another 12.2% say it is a problem, though not serious. More women (84.1%) considered sexual abuse of girls to be a serious problem/common issue than men (78.7%). As noted above, these percentages do not indicate frequency of abuse, rather they measure levels of concern about the issue. Concern is high among both men and women. The number that considered the issue not to be a problem at all is very low, at 2.7%;
- The number of respondents who consider sexual abuse of boys to be a serious problem/ common is lower, at 68.0%, but when those who think it is a problem, though not serious are added (20.2%), a large percentage consider sexual abuse of boys a problem. Only 7% consider it not to be a problem. Men and women report similar levels of concern about sexual abuse of boys;
- There is some variation between rural and urban dwellers, though the differences are not large – a similar degree of variation is found when responses are disaggregated by region and the administrative status of the island.

9. Equality of Access to Services

Key findings:

Schools and education

Overall, 49.1% of respondents are satisfied with their education services, with 38.1% dissatisfied. However, more men are dissatisfied (46.5%) than satisfied (40.9%), whereas more women (54.1%) are satisfied than dissatisfied (33.0%). Respondents on Male' are, as might be expected when their comparative access to educational facilities is considered, the most satisfied (52.3%) and those from the South are least satisfied (33.7%).

Dissatisfied respondents listed five aspects of the education system that need improvement, in the following order:

- Better trained teachers;
- Education to higher grade on islands;
- Better facilities, such as library, laboratory;
- Improved curriculum;
- Government school curriculum available on all islands.

Access to health services, medicine and hospitals

A majority of respondents are dissatisfied (54.9%) with access to health services, whereas only 34.2% indicate satisfaction. Dissatisfaction levels are highest in the South. Men (61.1%) are more dissatisfied than women (51.0%), though there is little difference between the satisfaction levels of rural and urban dwellers.

Employment and work opportunities

More respondents are dissatisfied (51.7%) than satisfied (36.3%) and dissatisfaction is greatest in the South. Rural dwellers are more dissatisfied than urban dwellers, although the difference in the relative percentages (54.6% to 45.7%) is not large.

Access to markets

Apart from Urban/Male' (the location of the largest markets) all regions register a majority of respondents dissatisfied (46.2%) with access to markets, compared with those who are satisfied (36.7%). Among those residing in Urban/Male, those satisfied (39.3%) just outnumber those dissatisfied (36.4%). Only 17.3% are satisfied with access to markets in Urban Addu.

Transport services (ferries, air services etc)

Majorities in Urban/Male' and the North and Central regions report satisfaction with transport services. Among rural dwellers, high levels of satisfaction are recorded from administrative islands in the North (71.9%) and Central (68.6%) zones, but those who live on non-administrative islands in those two regions, and all other islands, have majorities that are dissatisfied.

Banking and credit facilities

There are significant majorities across the country expressing satisfaction with banking and credit facilities, and Urban Addu is the only zone where respondents, by a narrow margin (46.2% to 42.3%) expressed dissatisfaction with these services;

Radio, television, newspapers and postal services

Overall there is a relatively high level of satisfaction with radio, television, newspapers and postal services, though less so for urban respondents. Women respondent report significantly higher satisfaction levels (72.8 %) than do men (53.3%).

In this section of the questionnaire, respondents were asked about their satisfaction levels with various government services, all of which have a human rights component. These included:

- schools and the education system;
- access to health services, medicine and hospitals;
- employment and work opportunities;
- access to markets to sell products, such as fish, produce, handicrafts;
- transport services (ferries, air services etc);
- banking and credit facilities;
- access to radio, television, newspapers and postal services;
- municipal and/or local atoll and island administration, including (where relevant) their Island Development and Women's Development Committees;
- the court system, magistrates and judges;
- the police/security services;
- the prison services.

In relation to each service, they were asked whether, overall, they were satisfied with the service, whether they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied or whether they were dissatisfied with the service.

In some cases, further clarification was required. Thus respondents were asked on open-ended question (without prompting) about what aspects of the education system needed improvement. Similarly, those who were not satisfied with the judicial system, the police/security system and the prison system were asked to identify what aspects were not satisfactory. Finally in this section, in relation to the information system, people were asked whether they would support the enactment of freedom of information laws.

In earlier sections, the tables presented have been disaggregated according to gender, and some times rural/urban status. Since a primary focus of the present section is equality of access to services across the country, the primary tables presented in this section are those disaggregated by region and administrative status. Comment is made on variations according to gender and rural/urban status where these are remarkable.

Access to Schools and Education

100 In relation to schools and the education system are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	61.4	19.3	19.3	0.0
North Other	36.2	8.6	55.2	0.0
North Central Admin	51.1	9.8	39.1	0.0
North Central Other	69.2	5.3	24.5	1.1
Central Admin	49.0	19.6	31.4	0.0
Central Other	50.0	17.4	32.6	0.0
South Central Admin	65.1	4.7	30.2	0.0
South Central Other	52.3	6.8	40.9	0.0
South Administration	23.1	8.7	65.4	2.9
South Other	43.8	4.8	51.4	0.0
Urban/Male'	52.3	16.2	28.9	2.6
Urban Addu	34.6	5.8	57.7	1.9
Total	49.1	11.5	38.1	1.3

- Overall, 49.1% of respondents were satisfied with their education services, with 38.1% dissatisfied;
- The South region is significantly less satisfied than other regions, with dissatisfaction levels of 65.4% (South administrative island), 57.7% (Urban Addu) and 51.4% (South non-administrative island), although non-administrative islands in the North (55.2%) also have a dissatisfied majority. Highest satisfaction levels are recorded on the administration island in the North and non-administrative islands in the North Central region;
- Men were less satisfied on this issue than women – in fact, more men are dissatisfied (46.5%) than satisfied (40.9%), whereas more women (54.1%) are satisfied than dissatisfied (33.0%);
- Disaggregated by region, Urban/Male' respondents are, as might be expected on this issue when their comparative access to educational facilities is considered, most satisfied (52.3%) and those from the South are least satisfied (33.7%).

Those who responded that they were dissatisfied with schools and education were asked, in their opinion, what aspects of the education system need improvement? Respondents were not prompted for this open-ended question. The five most common responses are listed below. Percentages add to more than 100% since more than one answer was possible.

	%
Better trained/qualified teachers	85.8
Education to higher grade on islands	63.5
Better facilities, such as library, laboratory	39.9
Government school curriculum available on all islands	24.5
Other	53.8

Access to Health Services, Medicine and Hospitals

102 In relation to access to health services, medicine and hospitals you are:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	75.4	14.0	10.5	0.0
North Other	32.8	10.3	56.9	0.0
North Central Admin	40.2	10.9	47.8	1.1
North Central Other	38.3	5.3	56.4	0.0
Central Admin	37.3	9.8	52.9	0.0
Central Other	32.6	21.7	45.7	0.0
South Central Admin	30.2	20.9	48.8	0.0
South Central Other	38.6	4.6	56.8	0.0
South Administration	14.4	3.9	81.7	0.0
South Other	43.8	1.9	54.3	0.0
Urban/Male'	30.1	15.0	53.8	1.2
Urban Addu	17.3	3.9	78.9	0.0
Total	34.2	10.5	54.9	0.5

- Unlike access to education, a majority are dissatisfied (54.9%) with access to health services, whereas only 34.2% indicate satisfaction;
- Dissatisfaction levels are again highest in the South, reaching 81.7% on islands in the South with an administrative centre.
- Only on administrative islands in the North region is there (considerable) satisfaction with health services;
- Men (61.1%) are more dissatisfied than women (51.0%), though there is little difference between rural and urban dwellers.

Employment and Work Opportunities

103 In relation to employment and work opportunities, are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	54.4	8.8	36.8	0.0
North Other	43.1	1.7	53.5	1.7
North Central Admin	39.1	13.0	45.7	2.2
North Central Other	41.5	4.3	51.1	3.2
Central Admin	41.2	7.8	45.1	5.9
Central Other	37.0	4.4	56.5	2.2
South Central Admin	39.5	18.6	41.9	0.0
South Central Other	34.1	6.8	54.6	4.6
South Administration	26.9	3.9	69.2	0.0
South Other	35.2	1.9	62.9	0.0
Urban/Male'	34.7	16.8	45.7	2.9
Urban Addu	19.2	5.8	69.2	5.8
Total	36.3	9.7	51.7	2.3

- More respondents are dissatisfied (51.7%) than satisfied (36.3%) and dissatisfaction is, once again, greatest in the South;
- Only one zone – administrative islands in the North – registers a majority (54.4% vs. 36.8%) that is satisfied with employment and work opportunities;
- Rural dwellers are, predictably, more dissatisfied than urban dwellers, although the difference in the relative percentages (54.6% to 45.7%) is perhaps not as great as might be expected, given global and local trends towards urban migration. There is little to distinguish between the statistics when they are disaggregated by gender.

Access to Markets

104 In relation to access to markets to sell your products, such as fish, produce, handicrafts etc are you:							
	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Satisfied	39.3	40.9	33.3	43.3	36.8	31.4	36.7
Indecisive	16.5	11.3	8.1	11.3	11.5	6.9	11.4
Not satisfied	36.4	41.7	51.6	42.3	48.3	57.9	46.2
Declined	7.8	6.1	7.0	3.1	3.5	3.8	5.8

- Apart from Urban/Male' (the location of the largest markets) all regions register a majority of respondents dissatisfied (46.2%) with access to markets, compared with those who are satisfied (36.7%);
- Even for those residing in Urban/Male', those satisfied (39.3%) only just outnumber the dissatisfied (36.4%);
- Rural dwellers (50.7%) are more dissatisfied than urban dwellers (36.4%) and men (52.3%) are more dissatisfied than women (42.4%);
- Only 17.3% express themselves satisfied with access to markets in Urban Addu.

Transport services (ferries, air services etc)

105 In relation to transport services (ferries, air services etc) are you:							
Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Satisfied	55.5	52.2	35.5	50.5	29.9	41.8	46.0
Indecisive	13.3	8.7	6.5	9.3	10.3	7.3	9.6
Not satisfied	29.5	38.3	56.5	39.2	59.8	50.2	43.2
Declined	1.7	0.9	1.6	1.0	0.0	0.8	1.2

- Majorities in Urban/Male', the North, and the Central regions report satisfaction with transport services;

- For rural dwellers, high levels of satisfaction with transport services are recorded from administrative islands in the North (71.9%) and Central (68.6%) zones, but those who live on non-administrative islands in those two regions, and all other islands, have majorities that are dissatisfied;
- Urban dwellers register small majorities expressing satisfaction with transport services;
- A majority of men (49.4% vs 38.3%) say they are dissatisfied with transport services, where as a majority of women (50.7% vs. 39.5%) are satisfied with them.

Banking and Credit Facilities

106 In relation to banking and credit facilities, are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	82.5	5.3	7.0	5.3
North Other	72.4	6.9	19.0	1.7
North Central Admin	48.9	8.7	37.0	5.4
North Central Other	67.0	3.2	20.2	9.6
Central Admin	49.0	7.8	31.4	11.8
Central Other	43.5	2.2	43.5	10.9
South Central Admin	69.8	18.6	11.6	0.0
South Central Other	56.8	15.9	15.9	11.4
South Administration	72.1	9.6	18.3	0.0
South Other	76.2	4.8	16.2	2.9
Urban/Male'	56.7	10.4	26.0	6.9
Urban Addu	42.3	3.9	46.2	7.7
Total	61.4	8.3	24.4	6.0

- There are significant majorities across the country expressing satisfaction with banking and credit facilities, and Urban Addu is the only zone where respondents, by a narrow margin (46.2% : 42.3%) expressed dissatisfaction with these services;
- Women (67.2%) are significantly more satisfied with banking and credit facilities than men (51.8%);
- Somewhat surprisingly, it might be thought, rural dwellers who have more limited access to such services, express more satisfaction with them (63.5%) than urban dwellers (56.7%). It is possible that people living on rural islands have less need of such services.

Radio, Television, Newspapers and Postal Services

107 In relation to access to radio, television, newspapers and postal services, are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	94.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
North Other	70.7	12.1	17.2	0.0
North Central Admin	59.8	17.4	21.7	1.1
North Central Other	78.7	7.5	11.7	2.1
Central Admin	80.4	7.8	11.8	0.0
Central Other	69.6	10.9	15.2	4.4
South Central Admin	62.8	16.3	20.9	0.0
South Central Other	65.9	15.9	18.2	0.0
South Administration	76.0	5.8	16.4	1.9
South Other	60.0	2.9	37.1	0.0
Urban/Male'	55.2	15.3	28.6	0.9
Urban Addu	53.9	5.8	36.5	3.9
Total	65.4	10.9	22.5	1.2

- Overall there is a relatively high level of satisfaction with radio, television, newspapers and postal services, though less so for urban respondents;
- Women respondent report significantly higher satisfaction levels (72.8 %) than do men (53.3%);

10. The Criminal Justice System

Key findings:

Justice

Overall, respondents were evenly divided between those who were satisfied with the justice system (41.5%) and those who were dissatisfied (42.1%). However, there were large variations regionally and according to whether respondents resided on an administrative island.

Significant majorities on urban islands were dissatisfied – 47.1% on Urban Male' (31.8% satisfied) and 50.0% on Urban Addu (34.6% satisfied) whereas a majority of rural dwellers (46.0% vs. 39.8%) recorded satisfaction.

When those who were dissatisfied with the justice system were asked why, respondents mentioned, in order of frequency, unfair/unjust decisions; corruption; incompetent judiciary; lack of information; and lack of access to lawyers.

Police

On average, 32.1% of respondents are not satisfied with the services of the police, but 86% and 74.1% of respondents from islands in the North region are satisfied. However, although relatively high levels of satisfaction are apparent in three other zones, there is a majority of respondents in three zones who are dissatisfied with police/security services. Asked what was not working satisfactorily in the police/security system, respondents mentioned: not dealing with crimes; can't get police when we need them; lack of fairness/bias; torture; corruption; lack of information about cases/detainees; lack of access to detainees, in that order.

Prisons

Everywhere but on Urban Addu, more people were satisfied with the prison system than dissatisfied, though dissatisfaction levels were high on some islands. In urban Addu, 36.5 are satisfied and 48.1% dissatisfied. The most frequent reasons for expressed dissatisfaction included; abuse of prisoners; torture; lack of adequate access to prisoners; lack of fairness/bias; corruption; and lack of information about prisoners, in that order.

Court System, Magistrates and Judges

111 In relation to the court system, magistrates and judges are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	61.4	7.0	21.1	10.5
North Other	50.0	5.2	43.1	1.7
North Central Admin	34.8	4.4	46.7	14.1
North Central Other	69.2	5.3	21.3	4.3
Central Admin	39.2	11.8	39.2	9.8
Central Other	41.3	8.7	43.5	6.5
South Central Admin	44.2	11.6	34.9	9.3
South Central Other	56.8	22.7	18.2	2.3
South Administration	36.5	13.5	49.0	1.0
South Other	41.0	1.0	54.3	3.8
Urban/Male'	31.8	9.5	47.1	11.6
Urban Addu	34.6	13.5	50.0	1.9
Total	41.5	8.8	42.1	7.6

Commentary

- Although overall respondents were more or less evenly divided about the judicial system, these average figures masked large variations regionally and according to whether respondents resided on an administrative island;
- On non-administrative islands in the North Central region, 69.2% expressed their satisfaction with the judicial system and the figure was 61.4% on administrative islands in the North. Elsewhere, however, there was a significant majority expressing dissatisfaction. This was particularly the case in the South region, where 49.0% on administrative islands expressed dissatisfaction (as against 36.5% satisfied) as did 54.3% on non-administrative islands in the South (41.0% satisfied);
- Significant majorities on urban islands were dissatisfied – 47.1% on Urban Male' (31.8% satisfied) and 50.0% on Urban Addu (34.6% satisfied);
- A majority of women expressed more satisfaction than dissatisfaction (47.6% satisfaction, 36.1% dissatisfaction) whereas men were the opposite. 52.1% of men were dissatisfied with the justice system, whereas only 31.5% were satisfied;
- This situation was mirrored by rural and urban dwellers. A majority of rural dwellers (46.0% to 39.8%) recorded satisfaction whereas a majority of those on urban islands (47.1% to 31.8%) were dissatisfied;

Those who responded that they were dissatisfied with the court system, magistrates and judges were asked, in their opinion, what did they think was not working properly in the judicial system? Respondents were not prompted for this open-ended question. The five most common responses are listed below – more than one reason was possible.

	% of responses
Unfair/unjust decisions	69.6
Corruption	23.9
Incompetence of judiciary	21.7
Lack of access to lawyers	8.7
Lack of information	9.8
Other	9.1

Police/Security Services

113 In relation to the police/security services, are you:							
Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Satisfied	55.2	80.0	66.67	57.73	48.28	47.51	57.6
Indecisive	9.54	4.35	5.91	7.22	11.49	4.6	7.14
Not satisfied	33.24	14.78	20.97	28.87	37.93	45.21	32.05
Declined	2.02	0.87	6.45	6.19	2.3	2.68	3.21

- 32.1% of respondents are not satisfied in relation to the services of the police. For a country at the Maldives stage of development, a dissatisfaction level of nearly one third is extremely high. When those who are undecided are added, nearly 40% of the population lack confidence in the police/security services;
- The average figures disaggregated by region, which show a majority of respondents to be satisfied in all six regions, mask the statistic that there are islands where there are majorities who are dissatisfied with the police/security services, sometimes significant minorities. These are better demonstrated by disaggregating the results by island administrative status, as follows:

113 In relation to the police/security services, are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	86.0	5.3	7.0	1.8
North Other	74.1	3.5	22.4	0.0
North Central Admin	58.7	7.6	25.0	8.7
North Central Other	74.5	4.3	17.0	4.3
Central Admin	52.9	7.8	37.3	2.0
Central Other	63.0	6.5	19.6	10.9
South Central Admin	32.6	9.3	53.5	4.7
South Central Other	63.6	13.6	22.7	0.0
South Administration	46.2	4.8	47.1	1.9
South Other	54.3	1.0	41.9	2.9
Urban/Male'	55.2	9.5	33.2	2.0
Urban Addu	36.5	11.5	48.1	3.9
Total	57.6	7.1	32.1	3.2

Commentary

- There is considerable variation in satisfaction levels with police services across the country. While 86% and 74.1% of respondents from islands in the North region are satisfied, and relatively high levels of satisfaction are apparent in three other zones, there is a majority of respondents in three zones who are dissatisfied with police/security services;
- Those who indicated that they were not satisfied we asked what they considered not to be working properly in the police/security system? Enumerators recorded all answers provided by respondents (more than one answer was possible). The following are the percentages of people who mentioned particular issues.

	% of responses
Not dealing with crimes	43.1
Can't get police when we need them	38.9
Lack of fairness/bias	33.1
Torture	18.3
Corruption	14.9
Lack of information about cases/detainees	13.4
Lack of access to detainees	9.1
Other	10.6

Prison Services

115 In relation to the prison services, are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	45.6	3.5	12.3	38.6
North Other	46.6	0.0	6.9	46.6
North Central Admin	30.4	4.4	25.0	40.2
North Central Other	38.3	0.0	21.3	40.4
Central Admin	33.3	7.8	25.5	33.3
Central Other	50.0	2.2	8.7	39.1
South Central Admin	34.9	9.3	9.3	46.5
South Central Other	22.7	2.3	13.6	64.1
South Administration	24.0	13.5	13.5	49.0
South Other	25.7	0.0	22.9	51.4
Urban/Male'	27.2	7.8	24.3	40.8
Urban Addu	17.3	17.3	30.8	34.6
Total	30.9	6.0	20.1	43.0

Commentary

- The comparatively high “declined” rate – the percentage of respondents who refused or neglected to answer this particular question – is likely to relate to the fact that only a limited proportion of the population come into contact with the prison system. Others who don’t are likely to have declined to answer the question. It needs to be remembered that the effect of a high “declined” proportion is to give the impression of lower responses to the other options. It is important therefore to examine the relationship between “satisfied” and “not satisfied” percentages;
- Everywhere but Urban Addu, more people were satisfied with the prison system than dissatisfied, though dissatisfaction levels were high on some islands – as much as 25.0% and 25.5% on the North and North Central administrative islands (compared with satisfaction levels of 30.4% and 33.3% respectively) and 24.3% on Urban/Male’ (27.2% satisfied);
- A majority of respondents from Urban Addu were dissatisfied (30.8%) compared with those who were satisfied (17.3%);
- Those who indicated that they were not satisfied we asked what they considered not to be working properly in the prison system? Enumerators recorded all answers provided by respondents (more than one answer was possible);

- The following are the percentages of people who mentioned particular issues:

	%
Abuse of prisoners	53.4
Torture	42.0
Lack of adequate access to prisoners	27.4
Lack of fairness/bias	22.4
Corruption	21.9
Lack of information about prisoners	15.1
Other	9.1

11. Access to Information from Central Government and Local Administrations

Key findings:

Respondents were generally very dissatisfied with their access to official information. Although overall, 45.7% of respondents were satisfied and 37.3% dissatisfied, there was majority dissatisfaction on several islands, including both urban islands (Male and Addu).

There is widespread support (88.0%) for freedom of information legislation, among both men and women, rural and urban dwellers, and across all regions of the country.

In relation access to information from central government and local administrations, respondents were asked whether, overall, they were satisfied with the service, whether they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied or whether they were dissatisfied with the service. In relation to the information system, people were asked whether they would support the enactment of freedom of information laws.

117 In relation to access to information from central government and local administrations, are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	61.4	5.3	26.3	7.0
North Other	48.3	8.6	34.5	8.6
North Central Admin	41.3	13.0	41.3	4.4
North Central Other	69.2	3.2	21.3	6.4
Central Admin	41.2	11.8	45.1	2.0
Central Other	54.4	2.2	43.5	0.0
South Central Admin	46.5	18.6	30.2	4.7
South Central Other	63.6	9.1	25.0	2.3
South Administration	39.4	21.2	34.6	4.8
South Other	43.8	2.9	47.6	5.7
Urban/Male'	38.7	15.3	39.3	6.7
Urban Addu	34.6	9.6	48.1	7.7
Total	45.7	11.5	37.3	5.6

Commentary

- Overall, the responses indicate a relatively high level of dissatisfaction with peoples' access to official information;
- In several zones, a majority expresses dissatisfaction – these include North Central administrative islands (41.3% dissatisfied), Central administrative island (45.1%), South non-administrative island, and both Urban islands (Male' 39.3% and Addu 48.1%);

- These responses have not been disaggregated by gender, but there is support by both women and men in the following question for freedom of information laws.

Freedom of Information Laws

In a companion question to the previous one, respondents were asked whether they support freedom of information laws which will give the public the right of access to information except where this would compromise the security of the country?

118 Do you support freedom of information laws which will give the public the right of access to information except where this would compromise the security of the country?			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	90.3	86.6	88.0
No	8.0	10.8	9.7
Declined	1.8	2.7	2.3
	Rural	Urban	Total
Yes	88.6	86.7	88.0
No	9.8	9.5	9.7
Declined	1.6	3.8	2.3

118 Do you support freedom of information laws which will give the public the right of access to information except where this would compromise the security of the country?			
Zones	Yes	No	Declined
North Administration	89.5	10.5	0.0
North Other	91.4	8.6	0.0
North Central Admin	92.4	4.4	3.3
North Central Other	96.8	2.1	1.1
Central Admin	92.2	3.9	3.9
Central Other	97.8	2.2	0.0
South Central Admin	95.4	2.3	2.3
South Central Other	100.0	0.0	0.0
South Administration	97.1	1.9	1.0
South Other	66.7	31.4	1.9
Urban/Male'	86.7	9.5	3.8
Urban Addu	63.5	32.7	3.9
Total	88.0	9.7	2.3

Commentary

- There is widespread support for freedom of information legislation (an average of 88.0%), among both men and women, rural and urban dwellers, and across all regions of the country;
- There is less support in the South, though even then there is a two to one majority in favour of freedom of information legislation.

12. Democracy – People’s Right to Participate in Government and to take Part in Decision-making Concerning Themselves

Key Findings:

70.2% said they voted in the Presidential election in October 2003, and 63.5% considered it free and fair. More rural respondents (77.5%) voted than urban dwellers (54.6%). The respondents who considered the election not to have been free and fair numbered 21.0% (25.7% on Male’) – another 15.5% were undecided. A few respondents would not have been old enough to vote, and more so for the Special Majlis and general elections

In the vote for the Special Majlis in May 2004, many more rural respondents (72.3%) voted than urban (45.95%). A majority on Male’ did not vote (52.9%), the only island on which there was such a majority. Overall, 66.4% (men 61.3%, women 69.5%) considered the election to be free and fair.

71.3% of respondents said they voted in the January 2005 general elections. This figure is very close to the official turnout announced by the Commissioner of Elections (73.1%). 63.5% considered the election free and fair. On Male’, 56.4% voted and 51.2% agreed that the election was free and fair, compared with 21.1% who disagreed with this.

In the survey, a series of questions were asked about recent elections – the Presidential election in October 2003, the election for the Special Majlis in May 2004 and the last general election in January 2005. Respondents were asked if they had voted in those elections, and whether they considered them free and fair. The highest percentage turnout was recorded for the recent (2005) general elections (73.1%) which correlate closely with the official turnout issued by the Commissioner of Elections (71.3%). However, for both the special Majlis and Presidential elections, held two to three years ago, there is less correlation – a possible explanation is that the time that has elapsed since these two elections may have been a factor in people’s ability to remember accurately whether they voted or not.

Presidential Election – October 2003

121 Did you vote in the Presidential election in October 2003?			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	69.0	71.0	70.2
No	29.8	27.4	28.3
Declined	1.2	1.62	1.5

Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Strongly Agree	22.0	20.9	41.4	28.9	16.1	6.1	21.5
Agree	29.2	54.8	29.6	46.4	56.3	56.0	42.0
Indecisive	7.2	0.8	2.7	3.1	5.8	2.3	4.1
Don't Agree	10.4	2.6	4.3	5.1	2.3	13.4	8.2
Strongly disagree	15.3	4.4	14.0	13.4	8.0	13.8	12.8
Declined	15.9	16.5	8.0	3.1	11.5	8.4	11.4

Commentary

- Turnout in the Presidential election was higher than either of the other two elections, at 70.2% though exactly the same percentage (63.5%) thought it was free and fair;
- The official turnout issued by the Commissioner of Elections was 77.5%;
- Respondents who considered not free and fair numbered 21.0% (25.7% on Male') – another 15.5% were undecided about this, or declined to answer;
- On Male', fewer respondents voted (54.6%) than elsewhere in the country and more (25.7%) thought the election not to have been free and fair;
- Voter numbers in the South were only slightly lower than in other regions – including on Urban Addu, although on Urban Addu a much higher percentage (38.6%) than elsewhere considered the election not to be free and fair. However, respondents on Urban Addu who thought this election was free and fair were still in the majority at 51.9% - unlike elsewhere in the country, very few respondents were undecided or declined to answer (9.6% compared with an average of 16.9% over the whole country).

Special Majlis Election – May 2004

123 Did you vote in the election of the Special Majlis in May 2004?			
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	63.9	63.9	63.9
No	34.6	35.1	34.9
Declined	1.5	1.0	1.2
	Rural	Urban	Total
Yes	72.3	45.9	63.9
No	26.5	52.9	34.9
Declined	1.2	1.2	1.2

Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Yes	45.9	78.3	69.4	61.9	77.0	74.0	63.9
No	52.9	21.7	29.0	38.1	23.0	23.7	34.9
Declined	1.2	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	2.3	1.2

124 In your opinion, was this election free and fair?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly Agree	19.9	21.8	21.1
Agree	41.4	47.7	45.3
Indecisive	5.3	3.4	4.1
Don't Agree	9.9	4.6	6.6
Strongly disagree	11.1	8.4	9.4
Declined	12.4	14.1	13.5

124 In your opinion, was this election free and fair?			
	Rural	Urban	Total
Strongly Agree	21.3	20.5	21.1
Agree	49.3	36.7	45.3
Indecisive	3.2	6.1	4.1
Don't Agree	5.8	8.4	6.6
Strongly disagree	9.1	10.1	9.4
Declined	11.2	18.2	13.5

124 In your opinion, was this election free and fair?							
Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Strongly Agree	20.5	18.3	40.9	26.8	18.4	7.7	21.1
Agree	36.7	56.5	31.2	50.5	55.2	56.7	45.3
Indecisive	6.1	0.9	3.7	0.0	4.6	4.6	4.1
Don't Agree	8.4	6.1	2.7	2.1	3.5	9.9	6.6
Strongly disagree	10.1	0.0	11.8	9.3	8.0	11.5	9.4
Declined	18.2	18.2	9.7	11.3	10.3	9.6	13.5

Commentary

- Slightly fewer voters overall turned out for the Special Majlis election 63.9% - approximately 10% down on number for the Presidential election;
- The official turnout according to the Commissioner of Elections was 55.5%;
- Identical percentages of men and women voted, although many more rural respondents (72.3%) voted than urban (45.95%);
- A majority on Male' did not vote (52.9%), the only island on which there was such a majority;
- Overall, 66.4% (men 61.3%, women 69.5%) considered the election to be free and fair;
- Slightly more on Male' (21.0%), than the average (16.2%), considered the election not to be free and fair, although this number increased to 19.6% on the North Central island;

General Election – January 2005

119 Did you vote in the last general election in January 2005?							
	Male		Female		Total		
Yes	70.9		74.4		73.1		
No	27.9		24.9		26.0		
Declined	1.2		0.7		0.9		
	Rural		Urban		Total		
Yes	80.8		56.4		73.1		
No	18.8		41.6		26.0		
Declined	0.4		2.0		0.9		
Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Yes	56.4	81.7	79.6	77.3	78.2	83.5	73.1
No	41.6	18.3	19.9	22.7	20.7	16.1	26.0
Declined	2.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.2	0.4	0.9

120 Was the general election in 2005 free and fair?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly Agree	16.5	20.8	19.1
Agree	41.9	46.0	44.4
Indecisive	6.8	6.9	6.9
Don't Agree	5.1	5.5	5.3
Strongly Disagree	16.5	8.4	11.5
Declined	13.3	12.5	12.8
	Rural	Urban	Total
Strongly Agree	19.3	18.8	19.1
Agree	50.0	32.4	44.4
Indecisive	6.8	6.9	6.9
Don't Agree	3.8	8.7	5.3
Strongly disagree	11.0	12.4	11.5
Declined	9.1	20.8	12.8

120 Was the general election in 2005 free and fair?							
Region	Urban/ Male'	North	North Central	Central	South Central	South	Total
Strongly Agree	18.8	18.3	37.6	19.6	17.2	7.3	19.1
Agree	32.4	59.1	32.8	50.5	55.2	56.3	44.4
Indecisive	6.9	3.5	5.4	11.3	6.9	7.7	6.9
Don't Agree	8.7	5.2	2.7	1.0	3.5	5.0	5.3
Strongly disagree	12.4	1.7	9.1	9.3	10.3	17.2	11.5
Declined	20.8	12.2	12.4	8.3	6.9	6.9	12.8

Commentary

- Relatively high numbers (73.1%) voted in the general election, particularly on rural islands, with the average rural turnout being over 80% and the highest turn-out being in the South (83.5%);
- The overall figure represents only a slightly higher than the official figure issued by the Commissioner of Elections, at 71.3%;
- The urban turnout was considerably lower, at 56.4%;
- A higher percentage of women (74.3%) voted than men (70.9%)
- Slightly lower percentages than the numbers who turned out to vote considered the election result to be free and fair, though a relatively high proportion of respondents declined to respond. Overall, 16.8% did not consider the result to be free and fair, about the same as for the Presidential election and lower than the Special Majlis election;
- Opinion on Male' was significantly different from the rest of the country. The number who said the election was free and fair was lower, at 51.2%, than the country overall (63.5%) although only 21.1% did not consider it free and fair. Fully 20.8% declined to express a view on the issue;
- More women (66.8%) than men (58.4%) thought the election free and fair.

13. Atolls and Islands Administration

Key Findings:

In eight out of twelve rural islands, a majority is dissatisfied with their local administration. In Urban Male' and Urban Addu, only a quarter of respondents express satisfaction with their local administration and in all but one other zone satisfaction levels are below 40%. Women express considerably more satisfaction (42.7%) than men (27.6%). Across the country, barely a quarter of men are satisfied with their local administrations.

Countrywide, twice as many respondents are dissatisfied with their Island Development Committees as are satisfied. Women (27.4%) are more satisfied with their Island Development Committee than men (17.9%). There are similar levels of dissatisfaction with Women's Development Committees.

Nearly 90% of the population consider that atoll chiefs and island chiefs should be elected locally. This is one of the few issues on which women (92.0%) are more critical of the status quo than men (84.7%).

There is considerable variation of opinion across the country about whether resources are fairly and equally distributed among atolls and islands. It is difficult to identify any pattern of satisfaction levels that might be based on geographical location.

In this Chapter, satisfaction levels with municipal and/or local atoll and island administration are examined. The survey asked specific questions about island development committees and women's development committees. Respondents were asked how important it is that atoll chiefs and island chiefs be elected by local people? Finally, respondents were asked whether they considered that there is fair and equal distribution of resources among atolls and islands.

Municipal and/or Local Atoll and Island Administration

108 In relation to municipal and/or local atoll and island administration, are you:				
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	Declined
North Administration	59.7	7.0	26.3	7.0
North Other	55.2	6.9	37.9	0.0
North Central Admin	38.0	10.9	44.6	6.5
North Central Other	63.8	6.4	24.5	5.3
Central Admin	29.4	19.6	49.0	2.0
Central Other	43.5	6.5	47.8	2.2
South Central Admin	39.5	16.3	41.9	2.3
South Central Other	59.1	13.6	22.7	4.6
South Administration	26.0	19.2	51.0	3.9
South Other	38.1	8.6	50.5	2.9
Urban/Male'	24.6	9.8	56.1	9.5
Urban Addu	25.0	13.5	57.7	3.9
Total	37.0	11.0	46.3	5.7

Commentary

- In only four zones do a majority of respondents express satisfaction with their local-level administration. In the remaining eight, a majority are dissatisfied – in Urban Male' and Urban Addu, only a quarter of respondents express satisfaction with their local administration and in all but one other zone satisfaction levels are below 40%;
- Women express considerably more satisfaction (42.7%) than men (27.6%). Country-wide, barely a quarter of men are satisfied with their local administrations.

Island Development Committees

109 In relation to your Island Development Committee are you: [where relevant]					
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	N/A	Declined
North Administration	42.1	10.5	40.4	0.0	7.0
North Other	13.8	6.9	79.3	0.0	0.0
North Central Admin	20.7	1.1	55.4	18.5	4.4
North Central Other	31.9	4.3	34.0	26.6	3.2
Central Admin	19.6	5.9	60.8	9.8	3.9
Central Other	32.6	4.4	56.5	4.4	2.2
South Central Admin	30.2	11.6	51.2	2.3	4.7
South Central Other	65.9	18.2	15.9	0.0	0.0
South Administration	16.4	3.9	72.1	3.9	3.9
South Other	21.0	5.7	70.5	1.0	1.9
Urban/Male'	18.8	8.1	28.9	31.5	12.7
Urban Addu	15.4	11.5	65.4	5.8	1.9
Total	23.8	7.1	47.7	15.3	6.1

Commentary

- Overall, twice as many people were dissatisfied with their Island Development Committees as were satisfied. In only one zone (South Central non-administrative islands), did respondents say they were well satisfied with their local development committees.
In the Northern administrative islands, 42.1% were satisfied and 40.4% not satisfied. In all ten other zones, there were various levels of dissatisfaction and in several, less than 20% expressed satisfaction with their Island Development Committee. In the North, on non-administrative islands, only 13.8% were satisfied with their Committee. On Central and South administrative islands the figure was little higher, at 19.6% and 16.4%. In Urban Male' (18.8%) and Urban Addu (15.4%) satisfaction levels were also extremely low;
- Men (53.0%) were more dissatisfied with their Island Development Committee than women (44.5%).

Women's Development Committees

110 In relation to your Women's Development Committee are you: [where relevant]					
Zones	Satisfied	Indecisive	Not Satisfied	N/A	Declined
North Administration	40.4	10.5	40.4	0.0	8.8
North Other	12.1	5.2	67.2	0.0	15.5
North Central Admin	20.7	4.4	53.3	19.6	2.2
North Central Other	41.5	2.1	26.6	26.6	3.2
Central Admin	11.8	9.8	64.7	9.8	3.9
Central Other	19.6	4.4	71.7	2.2	2.2
South Central Admin	39.5	16.3	37.2	2.3	4.7
South Central Other	70.5	6.8	20.5	2.3	0.0
South Administration	15.4	4.8	73.1	3.9	2.9
South Other	21.9	1.9	72.4	1.0	2.9
Urban/Male'	22.3	7.5	24.6	30.9	14.7
Urban Addu	19.5	7.7	51.9	19.2	1.9
Total	25.4	6.3	45.0	15.8	7.5

Commentary

- There were similar levels of dissatisfaction with Women's Development Committees. Apart from non-administrative islands in the South Central region, where there were 70.5% satisfaction levels reported, respondents from most other zones were generally dissatisfied with their Committee. On administrative islands in the Central region, those saying they were satisfied with their committee totalled only 11.8% and the figure was only slightly better on administrative islands in the South;
- Women (46.1%) were more dissatisfied than men (43.1%) with their Women's Committee.

Local Level Democracy

125 In your opinion, how important is it that atoll chiefs and island chiefs should be elected by local people?			
	Male	Female	Total
Strongly Agree	80.6	88.2	85.4
Agree	4.1	3.8	3.9
Indecisive	3.4	1.3	2.1
Don't Agree	5.3	2.9	3.8
Strongly Disagree	4.4	1.2	2.4
Declined	2.2	2.5	2.4
	Rural	Urban	Total
Strongly Agree	85.9	84.1	85.4
Agree	3.2	5.5	3.9
Indecisive	2.6	1.2	2.1
Don't Agree	4.6	2.3	3.8
Strongly disagree	2.3	2.6	2.4
Declined	1.4	4.3	2.4

125 In your opinion, how important is it that atoll chiefs and island chiefs should be elected by local people?						
Zones	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Declined
North Administration	82.4	7.0	5.3	3.5	1.8	0.0
North Other	86.2	1.7	5.2	5.2	1.7	0.0
North Central Admin	87.0	2.2	4.4	3.3	2.2	1.1
North Central Other	90.4	2.1	1.1	0.0	2.1	4.3
Central Admin	88.2	3.9	0.0	5.9	0.0	2.0
Central Other	76.1	15.2	0.0	6.5	2.2	0.0
South Central Admin	67.4	7.0	4.6	7.0	13.9	0.0
South Central Other	81.8	2.3	6.8	6.8	2.3	0.0
South Administration	90.4	1.0	1.9	4.8	0.0	1.9
South Other	91.4	0.9	0.0	4.8	0.9	1.9
Urban/Male'	84.1	5.5	1.2	2.3	2.6	4.3
Urban Addu	84.6	0.0	1.9	7.7	3.9	1.9
Total	85.4	3.9	2.1	3.8	2.4	2.4

Commentary

- This is an issue about which Maldivians feel deeply – 85.4% “strongly agree” that atoll chiefs and island chiefs should be elected locally. When those who “agree” are added, the total is nearly 90%;
- There is agreement across all regions, the only exception being on the South Central administrative island where over 20% disagree. However, even on these islands over two-thirds of respondents agree with the proposition;
- This is also one of the few issues on which women (92.0%) are more critical of the status quo than men (84.7%);
- It is also one of the few issues on which urban dwellers (89.6%) and rural dwellers (89.1%) are in close agreement.

Distribution of Resources among Atolls and Islands

126 Do you consider that there is fair and equal distribution of resources among atolls and islands?						
	Male	Female	Total			
Strongly Agree	8.0	15.6	12.7			
Agree	14.8	24.4	20.8			
Indecisive	5.6	3.5	4.3			
Don't Agree	22.5	18.6	20.0			
Strongly Disagree	46.2	32.0	37.4			
Declined	2.9	5.9	4.8			
	Rural	Urban	Total			
Strongly Agree	13.54	10.98	12.73			
Agree	23.59	14.74	20.79			
Indecisive	2.68	7.80	4.30			
Don't Agree	17.69	25.14	20.05			
Strongly disagree	39.28	33.24	37.36			
Declined	3.22	8.09	4.76			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Declined
North Administration	8.8	35.1	7.0	28.1	15.8	5.2
North Other	6.9	36.2	3.5	12.1	31.0	0.3
North Central Admin	19.6	16.3	4.3	7.6	50.0	2.2
North Central Other	26.6	33.0	0.0	7.5	30.8	2.1
Central Admin	27.4	21.6	2.0	5.9	43.1	0.0
Central Other	26.1	28.3	0.0	15.2	26.1	4.3
South Central Admin	2.3	7.0	7.0	14.0	67.4	2.3
South Central Other	6.8	29.6	2.3	4.5	56.8	0.0
South Administration	5.8	17.3	0.0	44.2	30.8	1.9
South Other	12.4	21.0	1.9	17.1	46.7	0.9
Urban/Male'	11.0	14.8	7.8	25.1	33.2	8.1
Urban Addu	0.0	17.3	5.8	25.0	42.3	9.6

Commentary

- There is considerable variation of opinion across the country about whether resources are fairly and equally distributed;
- There is strong disagreement with the proposition on South Central islands. In the North, when “strongly agree” and “agree” opinions are added, they exactly equate the “strongly disagree” and “disagree” opinions. A similar balance exists in Central administrative islands. However, a majority disagree with the proposition on both urban islands, and in the South overall, as well as North Central administrative islands;
- It is therefore difficult to identify any pattern of opinions about the distribution of resources that might be based on respondent’s geographical location. There is both strong dissatisfaction with the way resources are distributed on some islands and a majority agreeing that resources are distributed freely and fairly on at least three other island zones. All that can be said with certainty is that although overall a majority of respondents spread across the country (57.4% as against 33.5%) consider resources are not distributed freely and fairly, there is a very broad range of opinion about the proposition.

14. Sexual Harassment

Key findings:

A significant number of women in the Maldives have been subjected to sexual harassment by men in both public places and at work. Nearly 30% of women have subjected to obscene or sexual comments in public places, and nearly a quarter have had their hand grabbed in a public place. Some have experienced ungunhey (sexual touching) in places like the street or night market and a smaller number again have had this happen to them on ferries or when swimming in public.

In the workplace, 26.7% of women respondents have been constantly subjected to obscene or sexually suggestive language/ remarks aimed at them or their female colleagues. 7.3% report that they have been touched inappropriately at work, such as rubbing up against them, being touched on the breasts or bottom or being patted, pinched or stroked.

These behaviours are particularly prevalent in the Central region, where 50.9% of all women in the Central region reported that a man had made obscene or offensive sexual comments to them. A third of those on Male' have had a similar experience.

The final part of the survey, completed only by women, asked about certain behaviour of a sexual nature to which they might have been subjected. The questions were divided into two parts, the second part being completed only by women who had been or were employed in the workforce. These latter questions dealt with workplace sexual harassment.

The questions were of an extremely sensitive nature, and particular procedures were put in place as a result. Only women enumerators were used to administer the questionnaire. Where the enumerator for the particular household was male, the questionnaire was self-administered.

Behavior	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never occurred
127 A man rubbed himself up against you [ungulhey] or touched you on the breasts or bottom in the street, at the night market or any other public place?	19.3	3.2	77.5
128 A man grabbed your hand in a public place?	18.6	5.5	75.9
129 A man rubbed himself up against you or touched you on the breasts or bottom on, or when getting on or off, a ferry or other vessel?	6.2	2.0	91.8
130 A man obscene or offensive sexual comments on you?	21.1	8.5	70.4
131 A man rubbed himself up against you or touched you on the breasts or bottom when you were swimming with other people?	5.7	1.9	92.4

127 A man rubbed himself up against you [ungulhey] or touched you on the breasts or bottom in the street, at the night market or any other public place?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	24.4	4.2	71.5
North	13.7	2.0	84.3
North Central	15.7	1.5	82.8
Central	26.4	9.4	64.2
South Central	8.7	2.2	89.1
South	18.8	2.0	79.2
Total	19.3	3.2	77.5

128 A man Grabbed your hand in a public place?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	14.7	6.8	78.5
North	7.8	5.9	86.3
North Central	19.9	1.5	78.6
Central	27.5	13.7	58.8
South Central	17.8	4.4	77.8
South	23.7	4.7	71.6
Total	18.6	5.5	75.9

129 A man rubbed himself up against you or touched you on the breasts or bottom on, or when getting on or off, a ferry or other vessel?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	8.8	1.6	89.7
North	6.1	0.0	93.9
North Central	1.6	3.1	95.4
Central	10.0	2.0	88.0
South Central	4.4	2.2	93.5
South	6.3	2.1	91.6
Total	6.2	2.0	91.8

130 A man obscene or offensive sexual comments on you?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	21.8	11.4	66.8
North	12.0	4.0	84.0
North Central	23.1	8.2	68.7
Central	39.6	11.3	49.1
South Central	17.4	6.5	76.1
South	15.9	6.2	77.9
Total	21.1	8.5	70.4

131 A man rubbed himself up against you or touched you on the breasts or bottom when you were swimming with other people?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	3.6	1.6	94.8
North	2.0	6.0	92.0
North Central	6.7	2.2	91.1
Central	9.8	2.0	88.2
South Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South	9.0	1.4	89.6
Total	5.7	1.9	92.4

Workplace Sexual Harassment – Answers from employed women

Behavior	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never occurred
132 Another employee, or your boss, touched you inappropriately at work, such as rubbing up against you, touching you on the breasts or bottom or patting, pinching or stroking you?	7.3	0.0	92.7
133 At work constantly uses obscene or sexually suggestive language/remarks aimed at you or your female colleagues?	17.5	9.7	72.8
134 At work persistently suggested that you have sex with him or begin a sexual relationship?	3.5	1.0	95.0
135 At work you were shown/exposed to pornography or sexually explicit photos, text etc	1.5	0.5	98.0
136 At work, threatened you or implied trouble if you did not have sex with him or begin a sexual relationship?	1.5	0.5	98.0
137 At work, forced to have sex with him against your will, or attempted to do this [forced ziney]?	2.0	0.0	98.0

132 Another employee, or your boss, touched you inappropriately at work, such as rubbing up against you, touching you on the breasts or bottom or patting, pinching or stroking you?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	9.0	0.0	91.0
North	0.0	0.0	100.0
North Central	12.0	0.0	88.0
Central	8.3	0.0	91.7
South Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South	5.9	0.0	94.1
Total	7.3	0.0	92.7

133 At work constantly uses obscene or sexually suggestive language/remarks aimed at you or your female colleagues?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	21.0	9.0	70.0
North	11.1	0.0	88.9
North Central	12.5	16.7	70.8
Central	16.7	16.7	66.7
South Central	15.4	3.9	80.8
South	14.3	11.4	74.3
Total	17.5	9.7	72.8

134 At work persistently suggested that you have sex with him or begin a sexual relationship?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	4.0	2.0	93.9
North	0.0	0.0	100.0
North Central	4.2	0.0	95.8
Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South Central	4.0	0.0	96.0
South	3.1	0.0	96.9
Total	3.5	1.0	95.5

135 At work you were shown/exposed to pornography or sexually explicit photos, text etc	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	6.1	3.1	90.8
North	0.0	0.0	100.0
North Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
Central	8.3	0.0	91.7
South Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	3.5	1.5	95.0

136 At work, threatened you or implied trouble if you did not have sex with him or begin a sexual relationship?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	2.0	1.0	96.9
North	0.0	0.0	100.0
North Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South	3.1	0.0	96.9
Total	1.5	0.5	98.0

137 At work, forced to have sex with him against your will, or attempted to do this [forced ziney]?	Sometime in the past	Within the past 2 years	Never Occured
Urban/Male'	4.1	0.0	95.9
North	0.0	0.0	100.0
North Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South Central	0.0	0.0	100.0
South	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	2.0	0.0	98.0

Commentary

- Nearly 30% of women respondents report that a man made obscene or offensive sexual comments to them in a public place and nearly a quarter said that a man had grabbed their hand in a public place;
- The next most common experience, of a man rubbing himself up against them [ungulhey] or touching them on the breasts or bottom in the street, at the night market or any other public place, had happened to 22.5% of women;
- Less common, though still experience by up to 8% of women, were ungulhey on ferries or while swimming with other people;
- The behaviours described are particularly experienced in the Central region, where experience of a man rubbing himself up against them [ungulhey] or touching them on the breasts or bottom in the street, at the night market or any other public place, had happened to 35.8% of women;
- Half of all women (50.9%) in the Central region had have a man make obscene or offensive sexual comments to them;
- These behaviours were also a common experience on Urban/Male, where, for example, a third of women reported having had obscene or offensive sexual comments made to them;
- Over a quarter of respondents who were employed said they had constantly experienced obscene or sexually suggestive language/ remarks being aimed at them or their female colleagues;
- A smaller number, 7.3%, had been touched inappropriately at work, such as another employee or their boss rubbing up against them, touching them on the breasts or bottom or patting, pinching or stroking them;
- The other behaviours were less common;
- These experiences, once again, were most common in the Central region. A third of women in this region had constantly experienced obscene or sexually suggestive language/ remarks aimed at them or their female colleagues.

APPENDIX I

List of People Consulted on Survey Design

Name	Designation	Office/Organisation
Dr. Hassan Saeed	Attorney General	Attorney General's Office
Mr. Patrice Couer-Bizot	Resident Representative	UNDP Male'
Dr. J.M Luna,	Representative	WHO Male'
Mr. Kenneth Maskall	Representative	UNICEF Male'
Ms. Dunya Maumoon	Assistant Representative	UNFPA Male'
Mr. Fuwaad Thaufeeq	Director of Statistics	Ministry of Planning & National Development
Ms. Aishath Shahuda	Director of Economic Statistics	Ministry of Planning & National Development
Mr. Ahmed Mohamed	Director, Development Planning	Ministry of Planning & National Development
Ms. Mariyam Niyaf	Assistant Director	Ministry of Planning & National Development
Ms. Aishath Laila	Assistant Statistical Officer	Ministry of Planning & National Development
Mr. Mohamed Firshan	Assistant Statistical Officer	Ministry of Planning & National Development
Mr. Mauroof Ahmed	Director	Ministry of Employment & Labour
Mr. Hussain Siraj	Assistant Legal Officer	Ministry of Employment & Labour
Mr. Ahmed Rashid	Director	Dept. of Penitentiary & Rehabilitation Services
Ms. Mazeena Jameel	Assistant Director	Childrens Unit, Ministry of Gender & Family Development
Ms. Emma Fulhu	Domestic violence & violence against women in Maldives, Study Protocol, April 2004	Ministry of Gender & Family Development
Mr. Mohamed Nasheed	Chairperson	Maldivian Democratic Party
Mr. Ali Hashim	Vice Chairperson	Maldivian Democratic Party
Mr. Hassan Afeef	Caretaker Committee Member	Maldivian Democratic Party
Dr. Hussain R. Hassan	Caretaker Committee Member	Maldivian Democratic Party
Dr. Ahmed Shaheed	Member	Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party
Mr. Mohamed Didi	Member	Adhaalath Party

Mr. Abbas Adil Riza	Spokesman	Maldives Labour Party
Mr. Umar Naseer	Member	Islamic Democratic Party
Mr. Umaru Manik (Maizan)	Executive Board Member	Maldives National Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Fathimath Afiya	Executive Director	Care Society
Mr. Ahmed Muizzu	Vice-President	Law Society of Maldives
Ms. Aishath Sujoon Mohammed	Founder Member	Detainees Network
Ms. Shahindha Ismail	Founder Member	Detainees Network

APPENDIX II

Research Data and Studies Undertaken in Human Rights Field

- Domestic violence by the Gender Ministry in cooperation with UNFPA;
- An Assessment of the Opportunities and the Challenges to the Development of Political Parties in the Maldives carried out by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs at the end of December 2004;
- A situation analysis of Child Protection undertaken on Raa Atoll in December 2004;
- SAARC regional study [UNICEF] on Child Rights and Health, called Towards a Better Tomorrow;
- a survey on injury prevention;
- CARE is undertaking a disability study;
- Ministry programmes on prevention on blindness and deafness;
- UNDP is doing an update of its “livelihoods” study – draft from last year, but it is being updated following the tsunami;
- Vulnerability and Poverty Assessment 1998 and update 2004 MPND and UNDP;
- UC Berkeley – tsunami study on human rights issues;
- Mazeena from Unit on Rights of Child at Gender Ministry – study with UNICEF on child rights [In November we are due to conduct a study of violence against children – in school, in the community and at home];
- Gender Ministry has done extensive research on incest and sexual abuse. When the AG was a Judge in the criminal court, there was a study on the use of confessions – 97% of convictions were based on confessions at that time. Recently the percentage was in the 60s;
- here have been other studies in the criminal justice area measuring time taken between arrest to a statement being made, and from then to appearance in court;
- National Criminal Justice Action Plan 2004 – 2008
- There was an analysis done of criminal justice by the NDA (NDI?) and Australian studies on juvenile justice and gender justice;
- Australian judge Marcus Einfeld on the administration of justice;
- The Robinson report; [All reports in the justice sector are on CD].
- In the elections area, the UK Elections Commission undertook a study;
- There are annual justice statistics produced, for example the numbers of divorces initiated by wives, and by husbands;
- Also the Ministry of Planning has statistics on the poverty index, availability of water etc;
- Reproductive Health Baseline Survey 1999 CIET study for Ministry of Health supported by UNFPA;
- Protection study for IDPs;
- Violence against Children in Schools and Families in Maldives with Focus on Sexual Abuse;
- National Report on the follow up to the World Summit for Children

- Study on IODA Report;
- Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2002-2003

APPENDIX III

MALDIVES BASELINE HUMAN RIGHTS SURVEY

A survey conducted by the Human Rights Commission of the
Maldives

Sampling Design

July to December 2005

The Maldives Baseline Human Rights Survey is sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme Male', Maldives. This Sample Note is prepared by Dr. Abusaleh Shariff, Consultant, UNDP, Maldives

MALDIVES BASELINE HUMAN RIGHTS SURVEY

A Proposal for Sampling

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Designing a cost-effective sampling frame for the Maldives is a challenge. Although Maldivians number about 300,000, they are dispersed throughout 200 islands spread across a vast geographical area. Access and communication present real difficulties for the authorities, the people and researchers alike. While the population is relatively homogenous in cultural and religious terms, it is expected that considerable variation in human rights knowledge and attitudes will emerge from differences between the urban Male, (and Addu, to some degree) administrative centres on the atolls and more isolated islands as well, of course, across the usual demographics of age, sex, etc

The survey's broad aim is to gather and analyse cross-sectional human rights knowledge from a representative group of Maldivians. Since this is the first survey of its kind, and given the country's unique geography, there is limited information on peoples' attitudes and information to guide the design of the sample frame and survey size .

The survey's objectives revolve around the advocacy role of the new Human Rights Commission of the Maldives ("HRCM") and its three main roles – human rights education and training; complaints processing; and providing human rights policy advice to the authorities. Broadly the survey is expected to:

- generate information on awareness on human rights issues;
- assist in planning programmes to promote the universal culture of human rights in the Maldives, and
- assist to prepare effective and collaborative strategies for addressing human rights issues and challenges.

The report based on this survey and related information is scheduled to be released on December 10, 2005 and therefore the actual conduct of the household survey must be finished by mid September 2005.

Cluster Sampling

Given the prohibitive cost of conducting a survey across all Maldivian islands, or even all its atolls, a cluster sampling strategy is proposed.⁵ Cluster sampling is a technique where the entire population is divided into groups, or clusters, and a random sample of these clusters is selected. Cluster sampling is typically used to avoid expensive travelling by enumerators. One or more clusters are selected in stages from a range of homogeneous groupings (using a certain criteria linked with the objectives of the survey). Once the clusters are selected the intra-cluster heterogeneity can be captured during the selection of the households to be surveyed. Cluster sampling is useful when a random sample would produce a list of subjects so widely scattered that surveying them would prove to be far too expensive – the situation face dint, for example, people who live in over 200 islands across Maldives.

The cluster sampling technique will be more practical and/or economical than simple random sampling or stratified sampling. One can incorporate the Probability Proportional to Size element in the selection of clusters if the size of clusters varies considerably, as with range of the population and geographic size of various atolls in the Maldives. Thus a cluster sample could be taken by identifying the different atolls in Maldives as clusters (See Statement 2). A sample of these Atolls would then be chosen at random, so all households in the selected atolls can become the second stage ‘universe’. Once the atolls are identified the administrative island is identified, along with one other island selected at random. It is important to take the administrative island as it is expected that people and households in these islands would have relatively better exposure to markets, government and communication including media. This can be expected to have influenced their peoples’ knowledge and awareness of human rights, thus enriching the inter-island variability of the survey. In each of the selected islands 40-50 households are to be identified using the households list available from the local island office. With an unlimited budget, and plenty of time, robust estimates of the knowledge and awareness of human rights across the entire Maldives would only require a random sample survey of 384 households (see a note below on sample selection). But having adopted three mutually exclusive stratifications in the sample, it is necessary to increase the number of households to about 1150 households, using the following stratum:

All Maldives	- National level estimates
“Urban” Households	- Households in Male’ and Addu in this sample
Households in Administrative Islands	- Households selected from the administrative islands on the selected atolls
Households in all other islands	- All households of all other islands selected at random

⁵ The aim is to complete the data collection by the end August 2005.

Robustness, Sampling and Non-sampling Errors: The suggested sample frame also improves the robustness of the sample estimates by reducing standard errors and also helps absorb some of the random noise that can originate from non-sampling errors. While the suggested sampling design attempts to reduce the sampling errors to a minimum, the final quality of data can be affected if non-sampling errors are present. Non-sampling errors can result from a high proportion of non-responses, from systematic errors in replies from respondents, from intentional wrong reporting by respondents and from non-compliance with the sampling design. Errors can also creep in at the data entry stage, during the transfer of data from the questionnaire hard copies to computer readable format.

Selection of Individual for Interview

Although to this point households have been identified, the “unit” for interview needs to be randomly selected from among the household. For this selection, the person aged 15 years or more who had the most recent birthday is identified.

⁶ Although the age of majority in the Maldives is 21 years, consultations undertaken prior to the survey identified the need for young people to be included so that the human rights issues facing this particular sub-group can be canvassed.

Statement 1

Suggested Sampling Scheme and Structure for the Maldives Baseline Human Rights Survey (MBHRS)

Selected Atolls	Selected Islands	Sample No. of households
1	Administrative	50 to 60
	Other Random	50 to 60
2	Administrative	50 to 60
	Other Random	50 to 60
3		
4		
5		
<hr/>		
5	15	1000* (1200)
<hr/>		
20	122**	

*** Over sample households from two main “urban” centres so as to have a total sample of around 1150 households.**

**** 78 resorts, industrial and agricultural islands are to be excluded**

Statement 2
Proposed Sampling scheme and Structure for the MBHRS

	Population 2000		No. of households	Sample Allocation Main Over Sample All “Urban”		
Republic	270,101	(100)	40,912	1000	150	1150
Male’	74,069	(27.4)	9,700	275	100	375
All Atolls	196,032	(72.6)	31,212	725	50	775
<u>NORTH</u>	31117	(11.5)	5288	115		115
<u>1. (HA)</u>	14161		2351			
2. (H.Dh)	16956		2937			
3. (Sh)	11406		2002			
<u>NORTH</u>	55318	(20.5)	9036	205		205
<u>CENTRAL</u>						
<u>4. (N)</u>	10429		1764			
<u>5. (R)</u>	14486		2390			
6. (B)	9612		1484			
7. (Lh)	9385		1396			
<u>CENTRAL</u>	28548	(10.6)	3443	106		106
8. (K)	13474		1406			
<u>9. (AA)</u>	5518		779			
10. (ADh)	7803		978			
11. (V)	1753		280			
<u>SOUTH</u>	23283	(8.6)	3724	86		86
<u>CENTRAL</u>						
<u>12. (M)</u>	5084		787			
13. (F)	3827		553			
14. (D)	5067		812			
15. (Th)	9305		1572			
<u>SOUTH</u>	57766	(21.4)	9721	214	50	264
<u>16. (L)</u>	11588		1892			
17. (GA)	8249		1412			
18. (GDh)	11886		2177			
19. (Gm)	7528		1251			
<u>20. (S)</u>	18515		2989			

Note: Over sample all respective allocations by 10 per cent so as to deal with non-contact or refusals. This problem could also have been addressed through a replacement sample scheme if a complete house listing is available beforehand.

Statement 3

Stratification Criteria

(Over sample of about 10 per cent to take care of non-response)

North – Select 1 atoll at random and select the administrative island and one other island at random. In each island, select about 60 households at random; that is, spread across the island*.

1 atoll	2 islands	60 households each island	Total 115 households
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North Central – Select 2 atolls at random and in each atoll select the administrative island and one other island at random. In each island select about 50 households from within a cluster of households

2 atolls	4 islands	50 households each island	Total 205 households
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Central – Select 1 atoll at random and select the administrative island and one other island at random. In each island select about 55 households at random across the island.

1 atoll	2 islands	55 households each island	Total 106 households
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South Central – Select 1 atoll at random and select the administrative island and one other island at random. In each island about 45 households at random across the island.

1 atoll	2 islands	45 households each island	Total 86 households
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South – Select 2 atolls at random and in each atoll select the administrative island and one other island at random. In each island select about 55 households from within a cluster of households. Select 50 households from the main “urban” housing cluster in the South.

2 atolls	4 islands	55 households each island	215 households
“Urban” Cluster		55 households	55 households
			Total 270 households

Male’ - Select 375 households from all of the “urban” households in Male’

“Urban” Cluster	375 households	Total 375 households
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ALL

7 atolls	14 islands	775 households
“Urban” Cluster	2 clusters	430 households

Total 1205 households

* This provides equal weight to the island which is not administrative thus improving variability in the sampling frame.

Statement 4

Sample Design

Names and Sample allocations of Selected Atolls and Islands

Atoll/Island Sample	Population	No. households	Total
<u>MALE'</u>	74,069	9,700	375
<u>NORTH</u>	31,117	5,288	115
1. North Thiladhunmathi (HA)	14,161	2,351	115
Dhidhdhoo - Administrative	2,486	367	58
Vashafaru- Random	477	69	58
[since this is too small an island locality take the nearest other island and draw the sample of 60 householdss for interview from this other island]			
<u>NORTH</u>	55,318	9,036	205
<u>CENTRAL</u>			
4. South Miladhunmadulu (N)	10,429	1,764	103
Manadoo - Administrative	1,076	177	52
Landhoo – Random	656	125	52
5. North Maalhosmadulu (R)	14,486	2,390	103
Un'goofaaru - Administrative	920	136	52
Rasmaadhoo – Random	522	102	52
<u>CENTRAL</u>	28,548	3,443	106
9.North Ari Atoll (AA)	5,518	779	106
Rasdoo - Admininstrative	715	121	53
Feridhoo – Random	462	68	53
[since this is too small an island locality take the nearest other locality and draw the sample of 55 households for interview]			

<u>SOUTH</u>	23,283	3,724	86
<u>CENTRAL</u>			
12. Mulakatholhu (M)	5,084	787	86
Muli - Administrative	591	90	45
Maduvvari – Random	515	82	45
<u>SOUTH</u>	57,766	9,721	218
16. Hadhdhunmathi (L)	11,588	1,892	106
Fonadhoo - Administrative	1,420	204	53
Gamu – Random	1,642	242	53
20. Addu Atoll (S)	18,515	2,989	108
Hulhudoo - Administrative	1,531	277	55
Meedhoo – Random	1,632	292	55
ADDU (“urban”)			55

Notes: The sample allocated to each atoll is to be divided equally between administrative island and the other selected at random. Over sample all respective allocations by 10 per cent so as to deal with non-contact or refusals. This problem could also have been addressed through a replacement sample scheme if a complete house listing is available before hand.

Empirical and Analytical Categories – Dummy Table Formats

[Household sample weights to be used during the analysis and data interpretation]

Format 1

Maldives - National

Variables	Maldives	Urban	Islands Admin. Island	Other
Island				
Sample Size	1205	430	388	388
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
.				
.				
.				

Format 2

Maldives and Regions

Variable Names	
	Sample
All Maldives	1205
Urban (Male' & Addu)	430
Islands	775
(Administrative)	388
(Other)	388
North	115
North Central	205
Central	106
South Central	86
South	215

A Note on Sampling and Estimating Standard Errors for the MBHRS

Do you know that Maldives now has an office of the Human Rights Commission located in Male'? This is the key question and we expect that a certain proportion of Maldivians have knowledge about the same and are aware about its existence. Once this question is asked to the respondents the answer is likely to be Yes or No. Note there may be a few who are not at all aware of this and they can be categorized as Do Not Know answer. The standard deviation for the replies to this question will be a maximum of 0.5.

Note that we do not have real data yet to examine and we are only trying to estimate the probable values of those who would say YES (Py) and NO (Pn). Additionally, we are attempting to select values for Py and Pn that would work for every question in the survey, and not just the knowledge of the existence of HRCM. Thus, if we know nothing about the types of responses we will be getting in our survey; it is safest to maximize the variation, by assuming a 50/50 split in responses across questions. Thus, the computation of (Py)(Pn) becomes simple; it is (.5)(.5), or .25. The equation to assess the sample size is given as:

$$\frac{(Py)(Pn)}{\text{Std Error}^2} = N$$

and the equation will become:

$$\frac{.25}{\text{Std Error}^2} = N$$

[Note that if one has a better understanding of the results for critical items in a study, one can adjust the values of Py and Pn. For example, if one is reasonably certain that responses to the questions will be stacked toward one set of values for eg., 38 % say YES and rest say No; then $(Py * Pn) = 0.38 * 0.62 = 0.2356$.]

Level of Significance: Subsequent to the determination of the values of Py and Pn, the next step is to decide the level of accuracy that one would wish the results would have to be. This requires setting a sampling error that is acceptable to all of us. Let's say that we would like our results should be accurate within a range of plus or minus 5 percent i.e., we want a confidence interval of 95 percent. It is typical and normal in the statistical and empirical studies to expect 95 percent accuracy. For a confidence interval of 95 percent, the standard error multiplied by 1.96 is the sampling error.

Therefore, we will first divide the sampling error we have chosen by 1.96 to arrive at the standard error (as shown in step 1 below). Then, we will square the result to arrive at the denominator of the equation above (as shown in step 2).

Step 1:

Standard Error = Sampling error / 1.96 (95% confidence level) i.e., .05/1.96 = .0255102

Step 2:

Denominator of the equation = (.0255102)² = .0006507

Then using the above equation N is estimated as below:

$$\frac{.25}{.0006507} = N$$

i.e., N = **384**

Given this calculation, it requires 384 household interviews to be 95 percent confident of our overall survey results, within a range of plus or minus 5 percent. That is to say, N = 384 is the sample size that is needed to if we want observed percentages to be within plus or minus 5 percent of the unknown population parameter. This will be true 19 out of 20 times, though in a given instance, it either is or is not true, but we don't know which. If one always wanted to have a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percent and also have the most conservative estimate of the response distribution (that is, assume a 50/50 split in responses to the question), the sample would always be 384.

But in this survey we intend to get representative sample for at least three strata namely, the urban-Maldives, administrative islands and all other islands we have ensured in our sample design that all strata get a reasonably allocation of sample so that the results are robust, besides being representative (See Statement 4 above).

Because sampling error is a function of the method used to draw the sample, extracting subsets of the data may have the effect of invalidating the error estimation, if the subsets are drawn in such a way as to introduce a substantial non-random element into the subset.

Estimating Standard Error Subsequent to the Completion of the Survey:

The following formula can be used for determining the sampling error for data once the survey is over and estimates are computed:

$$\sqrt{\frac{(Py)(Pn)}{N}} = \text{Std Error}$$

$$[\text{Also standard error is } \delta_x = \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{N}}]$$

APPENDIX IV

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Study of Attitudes and Awareness of Human Rights, and Awareness of the Maldives Human Rights Commission

“Publishing or publicising any individual information gathered during this survey is prohibited. This information may not be used in legal matters either.”

This quantitative study will be undertaken via individual interviews in Dhivehi. Interviewees will have the questionnaire introduced to them, including its confidentiality. Respondents will be above 18 years of age.

Note: RF/DK/NA = Refused/Don't Know/No Answer

- Please circle the appropriate answer
- If choosing RF/DK/NA, please circle the answer number as well as 'RF' or 'DK' or 'NA', according to the appropriate answer

01 Enumerator: **Signature:**

02 Supervisor: **Signature:**

03 Atoll (if in Male indicate Ward)

04 Atoll Code

05 Island

06 Island Code

07 Household Number

08 Sex:
1. Male
2. Female
3. RF/DK/NA

09 Age (at last birthday):
1. Age
2. RF/DK/NA

10 Nationality
1. Maldivian
2. Non – Maldivian
3. RF/DK/NA

11 What is the total number of people who live in this household?

1. OO

12. Relationship to Head of Household

1. Household Head
2. Spouse
3. Child
4. Stepchild
5. Brother / Sister
6. Grandchild
7. Parent / Step parent
8. Son-in-Law / Daughter in Law
9. Other relative
10. Non relative
11. Domestic servant (Maldivian)
12. Domestic servant (Foreign)
13. RF/DK/NA

13 What is your highest education level achieved?

1. Adult literacy
2. Local certificate
3. Primary (grade 1 to 7)
4. Low secondary (grade 8 to 10)
5. High Secondary (grade 11 to 12)
6. Higher Education (first degree onwards)
7. DK/RF/NA

14 Did you ever leave your home to further your education [Were/are you a “boarder” child?]

1. Yes
2. No (got to Q16)
3. DK/RF/NA (got to Q16)

15. If yes for how long (if not in years then state in months)

Years -----

Months -----

Enumerator *“I now want to ask you some questions about this house”*

16 Does the house have electricity?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

17 Do you have a rainwater tank/ storage facility?

1. Yes [Skip to Question **19**]
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

18 What is the reason you do not have a rainwater tank/ storage facility?
[Do not prompt]

1. Not required
2. Cannot afford
3. Too much trouble to have one
4. Other (Specify)
5. DK/RF/NA

19 From which source do you get your drinking water?
[Do not prompt]

1. Rainwater tank / storage facility in the household compound
2. Well water in the household compound
3. Public/community rainwater tanks
4. Desalination plant
5. Public Piped water supply
6. Mineral water
7. Other
8. DK/RF/NA

20 What type of sanitary/sewerage system does the household have?

1. Toilet connected to sea
2. Toilet connected to septic tank
3. Open area [gifili] surrounded by walls connected to the sea
4. Open area [gifili] surrounded by walls connected to septic tank
5. Open area [gifili] (without toilet seat/ septic tank)
6. Other
7. DK/RF/NA

21 Was there any damage caused to your housing unit, sanitary unit, water supply or to your property [capital goods] due to the tsunami?

1. Extensive damage
2. Considerable damage
3. Little damage
4. No [Skip to Question **32**]
5. DK/RF/NA

22 If there was such damage, has it now been repaired?

1. Completely
2. Partially
3. Will be repaired soon
4. Not repaired
5. DK/RF/NA

23 Have you received support from any group or institution or anyone else to help in recovering from your loss?

1. Yes
2. No [Skip to question 32]
3. DK/RF/NA

24 If yes, who have you received support from? (Complete the table below about the amount of support received)

1. Island authorities/Government
2. International organisation
3. Local NGO
4. Local community
5. Relatives
6. Friends
7. Other
8. DK/RF/NA

Support from:	1. A lot	2. Sufficient	3. Cannot say if sufficient or not	4. insufficient	5. DK/RF/NA A/ B/ C
25. Island authorities/ Government	1	2	3	4	5 A/ B/ C
26. International organisation	1	2	3	4	5 A/ B/ C
27. Local NGO	1	2	3	4	5 A/ B/ C
28. Local community	1	2	3	4	5 A/ B/ C
29. Relatives	1	2	3	4	5 A/ B/ C
30. Friends	1	2	3	4	5 A/ B/ C
31. Other	1	2	3	4	5 A/ B/ C

32 What is your occupation?

1. None (answer Q 40 and then go to Q 46)
2. Fishing
3. Government job
4. Home business eg pastry-making (answer Q 35, Q40 and then go to Q 46)
5. Private business outside the home
6. Handicraft
7. Day labour
8. Tourism Industry
9. Agriculture
10. Retail shop
11. Joint venture
12. Household duties and childcare (answer Q 35, Q40 and then go to Q 46)
13. Other ----- (specify)
14. DK/RF/NA

33 What is your employment status?

1. Employer
2. Employee
3. Group worker
4. Self-employed (Answer Q 34, 35, 36 and go to Q 41)

5. Unpaid family worker (Answer Q 35, 36 and go to Q 46)
6. Other Specify
7. DK/RF/NA

34 What employment sector are you in?

1. Government
2. Public Enterprise
3. Private Enterprise
4. National Security Service
5. Private house/own home or property
6. Private place such as shop, tuition class etc
7. No permanent occupation
8. Other specify
9. DK/RF/NA

35 How many hours a day do you work?

1. Less than 4 hours
2. 4-8 hours
3. 9-10 hrs
4. 11-12 hrs
5. More than 12 hrs
6. DK/RF/NA

(NOTE: if you chose option (4) or (12) in Question 32, then go to Q 46)

36 How many days a month do you work?

1. Less than 20 days per month
2. 21-22 days
3. 23-24 days
4. 25-26 days
5. 27 days
6. More than 27 days
7. DK/RF/NA

37. How many days paid holiday do you get each month, including weekends?

1. 4 days or Less than 4 days
2. 5 days
3. 6 days
4. 7 days
5. 8 days
6. More than 8 days
7. DK/RF/NA

38. Do you consider that in your own job you have adequate time off to spend with your family?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Cannot say
4. DK/RF/NA

39. How much did you receive from your employment in the past month? (Wages and salaries including medical allowances and other benefits)

1. Total: _____ rufiyaa
2. DK/RF/NA

40 How much did you receive as property income during the past month?

1. Dividends
2. Renting of goods
3. Rent of building
4. Rent of land
5. Total
6. DK/RF/NA

41. How much did you receive as profits from self-employment or family business during the past month?

1. Total: _____ rufiyaa
2. DK/RF/NA

42 How do you get paid?

1. Daily
2. Weekly
3. Fortnightly
4. Monthly
5. Other
6. DK/RF/NA

43 How often is your pay late?

1. Always on time
2. Sometimes late
3. Usually late
4. Always late
5. DK/RF/NA

44 What benefits do you get in addition to your pay?
[Do not prompt]

1. Free meals
2. Subsidised meals
3. Meal allowance
4. Free accommodation
5. Subsidised accommodation
6. Free medical care
7. Pension
8. Other
9. DK/RF/NA

45 Do you consider your wage and benefits fair for the work you do?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

46 Do you consider that workers who are required to live on their employer's site should have time off to spend with their families in addition to normal holiday entitlements?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

47 How does your household compare economically with the other households in your community?

1. Well below average
2. Below average
3. Average
4. Above average
5. Well off
6. DK/RF/NA

Awareness of the Human Rights Commission

48 Have you heard of [are you aware of] the Maldives Human Rights Commission?

1. Yes
2. No Skip to question 55
3. DK/RF/NA

49 Thinking about how well [how good a job] the Maldives Human Rights Commission is doing, do you think the Commission is doing:

1. An excellent job
2. A good job
3. A satisfactory job
4. Not that good a job
5. A poor job
6. DK/RF/NA

50 What is the role [job] [what are the responsibilities] of the Maldives Human Rights Commission?

[More than one answer possible]

1. Protect human rights
2. Receive/Investigate complaints about human rights
3. Promote/educate about/human rights
4. Advise the government about human rights
5. Other [State.....]
6. DK/RF/NA

From what you know about the work of the Maldives Human Rights Commission, do you think it should do more, less or about the same of the following:

51 Protect human rights?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same
4. DK/RF/NA

52 Receive/Investigate complaints about human rights?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same
4. DK/RF/NA

53 Promote/educate about/human rights?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same
4. DK/RF/NA

54 Advise the government about human rights?

1. More
2. Less
3. About the same
4. DK/RF/NA

Awareness of Human Rights

55 How do you rate your own knowledge about human rights?

1. High awareness
2. Moderate awareness
3. Low awareness
4. DK/RF/NA

56 Please name up to three human rights which you consider the most important, if you can (Do not prompt)

1. Right to a decent/adequate standard of living/income
2. Freedom of expression
3. Adequate/decent standard of housing
4. Women's rights to equality
5. Access to good quality of education
6. Right to justice/a fair trial
7. Access to health services
8. Freedom from arbitrary arrest/torture
9. Adequate food
10. Employment opportunities/Right to a job/work
11. Right to personal security/ to be free from violence
12. Right to fair conditions of work (including fair pay)
13. Children's rights
14. A secure family life
15. Security of property
16. Safe and clean environment
17. Freedom of opinion, conscience and religion
18. Freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law
19. Right to vote/participate in government
20. Freedom of association, including the right to form political parties and trade unions

21. Freedom of movement, including the right to stay on the island of one's choice and adequate transport services
22. The right not to be required [forced] to undertake community work
23. Other (record).....
.....

How many rights was the respondent able to name?

24. Able to name 3 human rights
25. Able to name 2 human rights
26. Able to name 1 human right
27. Not able to name any human rights
28. DK/RF/NA

57 [Show Flash Card] Some human rights are listed on the card I have just given to you. I would like you to tell me which you think are the ten most important ones in your life or in your community.

1. Right to a decent/adequate standard of living/income
2. Freedom of expression
3. Adequate/decent standard of housing
4. Women's rights to equality
5. Access to good quality of education
6. Right to justice/a fair trial
7. Access to health services
8. Freedom from arbitrary arrest/torture
9. Adequate food
10. Employment opportunities/Right to a job/work
11. Right to personal security/ to be free from violence
12. Right to fair conditions of work (including fair pay)
13. Children's rights
14. A secure family life
15. Security of property
16. Safe and clean environmental
17. Freedom of opinion, conscience and religion
18. Freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law
19. Right to vote/participate in government
20. Freedom of association, including the right to form political parties and trade unions
21. Freedom of movement, including the right to stay on the island of one's choice and adequate transport services
22. The right not to be required [forced] to undertake community work

Level of Importance – Human Rights Issues

Enumerator: *Now I am going to ask you about how important you think particular human rights are. I want you to rate/rank each right according to whether you think the right is: very important, somewhat important, or not important.*

- 58** How important is the right to an standard of living that is adequate for the your health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 59** How important is the right to freedom of expression
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 60** How important is the right of women to exercise [enjoy] all human rights on the basis of equality with men
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 61** How important is the right of people with disabilities not to be discriminated against [treated] unfairly
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 62** How important are the rights of the elderly and people unable to support themselves to assistance from the government
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 63** How important is the right of everyone to access good quality education
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA

- 64** How important is the right to justice/right to a fair trial [fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal/court]
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 65** How important is freedom from arbitrary arrest or arbitrary detention/torture
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 66** How important is the right to work and to just and favourable/fair conditions of work
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 67** How important is the right to equal pay for equal work without discrimination
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 68** How important is the right to form and join trade unions, including having the right to strike
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA
- 69** How important is the right to personal security/ to be free from violence
1. Very important
 2. Somewhat important
 3. Not important
 4. DK/RF/NA

70 How important is the right to found a family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and to have a fulfilling family life.

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not important
4. DK/RF/NA

71 How important is a safe and clean environment

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not important
4. DK/RF/NA

72 How important is freedom of opinion, conscience and religion

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not important
4. DK/RF/NA

73 How important is freedom of assembly and the right to protest within the law

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not important
4. DK/RF/NA

Attitudes to Women's Rights

Enumerator: *"In this community, people have difference views about women's rights to equality with men in the family, in the courts, in relation to custody of children and on dissolution of marriage and their rights to inheritance. The Human Rights Commission is interested in your confidential opinion about some of these issues."*

74 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in family matters?

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

- 75** Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men before the courts?
1. Strongly Agree
 2. Agree
 3. Neither agree nor disagree
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
 6. DK/RF/NA
- 76** Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men to inheritance?
1. Strongly Agree
 2. Agree
 3. Neither agree nor disagree
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
 6. DK/RF/NA
- 77** Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in relation to the custody of children?
1. Strongly Agree
 2. Agree
 3. Neither agree nor disagree
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
 6. DK/RF/NA
- 78** Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in relation to divorce?
1. Strongly Agree
 2. Agree
 3. Neither agree nor disagree
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
 6. DK/RF/NA
- 79** Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men in relation to work?
1. Strongly Agree
 2. Agree
 3. Neither agree nor disagree
 4. Disagree
 5. Strongly disagree
 6. DK/RF/NA

80 Do you agree or disagree that women should have equal rights with men to take part in the government and be elected to political positions?

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

Attitudes to family and ideas about acceptable behaviour in the home

Enumerator: *“In this community and throughout the Maldives, people have different ideas about families, and what is acceptable behaviour for men and women in the home. I am going to read you a list of statements and I would like you to tell me whether you generally agree or disagree with the statement. There are no right or wrong answers – the survey is just trying to discover people’s attitudes to these things. Also, I want to remind you that this questionnaire is confidential. No-one else here will know what you have answered to these questions.”*

81 A good wife always obeys her husband even if she disagrees

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

82 Family problems should only be discussed with people in the family

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

83 It is important for a man to show his wife who is the boss

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

84 A woman should be able to choose her friends even if her husband disapproves

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

85 It is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn't feel like it.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

86 If a man mistreats his wife, others outside the family should intervene

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

In your opinion, does a man have a good reason to hit his wife if:

Instance	1. Yes	2. No	3. DK/RF/NA A/ B/ C
87. She does not complete her housework to his satisfaction	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
88. She disobeys him	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
89. She refuses to have sex with him	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
90. She asks him whether he has other girl-friends	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
91. He suspects that she is unfaithful	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
92. He finds out that she has been unfaithful	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
93. She goes against Islam? [haraam]	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
94. She beats the children	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
95. Other.....	1	2	3 A/ B/ C

96 In your opinion, a man should never hit his wife.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

97 In your opinion, can a married woman refuse to have sex with her husband if:

Instance	1. Yes	2. No	3. DK/RF/NA A/ B/ C
1. She doesn't want to	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
2. He is intoxicated	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
3. She is sick	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
4. He mistreats her	1	2	3 A/ B/ C
5. He asks her to do something against Islam	1	2	3 A/ B/ C

Sexual Abuse of Children

Enumerator: *"The next two questions ask the extent to which you think the sexual abuse of children is a problem in the Maldives."*

98 How serious do you consider the sexual abuse of girls to be in the Maldives?

1. A serious problem
2. A problem, but not serious
3. Not a problem
4. DK/RF/NA

99 How serious do you consider the sexual abuse of boys to be in the Maldives?

1. A serious problem
2. A problem, but not serious
3. Not a problem
4. DK/RF/NA

Right to equality of access to services

Enumerator: *"In this section of the questionnaire, I will be asking you about your satisfaction levels with various government services. In relation to each service, I will be asking whether, overall, you are satisfied with the service, whether you are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied or whether you are dissatisfied with the service."*

100 In relation to schools and the education system, are you:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

101 In your opinion, what aspects of the education system need improvement?
[Do not prompt – more than one answer possible]

1. Education to higher grade on islands
2. Government school curriculum available on all islands
3. Better trained teachers
4. Improved curriculum
5. Better facilities, such as library, laboratory
5. Other
6. DK/RF/NA

102 In relation to access to health services, medicine and hospitals you are:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

103 In relation to employment and work opportunities, are you:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

104 In relation to access to markets to sell your products, such as fish, produce, handicrafts etc are you:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

105 In relation to transport services (ferries, air services etc) are you:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

106 In relation to banking and credit facilities, are you:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

107 In relation to access to radio, television, newspapers and postal services, are you:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

108 In relation to municipal and/or local atoll and island administration, are you:

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

109 In relation to your Island Development Committee, are you: [where relevant]

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. Not relevant
5. DK/RF/NA

110 In relation to your Women's Development Committee, are you [where relevant]

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. Not relevant
5. DK/RF/NA

111 In relation to the court system, magistrates and judges, are you:

1. Satisfied [Skip to question **113**]
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied [Skip to question **113**]
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

112 If not satisfied, what do you is not working properly in the judicial system?
[Do not prompt – more than one answer possible]

1. Unfair/unjust decisions
2. Corruption
3. Competence of judiciary
4. Lack of access to lawyers
5. Lack of information
6. Other
9. DK/RF/NA

113 In relation to the police/security services, are you:

1. Satisfied [Skip to question **115**]
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied [Skip to question **115**]
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

114 If not satisfied, what do you consider is not working properly in the police/security system?
[Do not prompt – more than one answer possible]

1. Can't get police when we need them
2. Not dealing with crimes
3. Lack of fairness/bias
4. Corruption
5. Torture
6. Lack of information about cases/detainees
7. Lack of access to detainees
8. Other
9. DK/RF/NA

115 In relation to the prison services, are you:

1. Satisfied [Skip to question **117**]
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied [Skip to question **117**]
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

116 If not satisfied, what do you consider is not working properly in the prison system?
[Do not prompt – more than one answer possible]

1. Lack of adequate access to prisoners
2. Abuse of prisoners
3. Lack of fairness/bias
4. Corruption
5. Torture
6. Lack of information about prisoners
7. Other
8. DK/RF/NA

117 In relation to access to information from central government and local administrations

1. Satisfied
2. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
3. Dissatisfied
4. DK/RF/NA

118 Do you support freedom of information laws which will give the public the right of access to information except where this would compromise the security of the country?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

People's right to participate in government and to take part in decision-making concerning them.

119 Did you vote in the last general election in January 2005?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

120 In your opinion, was this election free and fair?

2. Strongly agree
3. Agree
4. Neither agree nor disagree
5. Disagree
6. Strongly disagree
7. DK/RF/NA

(Note: number one was missing due to typing error in Dhivehi questionnaire)

121 Did you vote in the Presidential election in October 2003?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

122 In your opinion, was this election free and fair?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

123 Did you vote in the election of the Special Majilis in May 2004?

1. Yes
2. No
3. DK/RF/NA

124 In your opinion, was this election free and fair?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

Enumerator: *"In his democratic reforms, the President has proposed that all members of the people's Majlis should be elected by the people so that there will no longer be members of the Majlis appointed by the President".*

125 In your opinion, how important is it that atoll chiefs and island chiefs should be elected by local people?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

126 Do you consider that there is fair and equal distribution of resources among atolls and islands?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. DK/RF/NA

[For male respondents:

Enumerator: *That is the end of the questionnaire – thank you for your participation. I want to repeat that the answers you have given will not be used in any way that will identify you. The Human Rights Commission intends to publish the results of the questionnaire.]*

Sexual Harassment (for women respondents only)

[This section is to be administered only by women enumerators. If for any reason this is not possible, it is to be self-administered]

Enumerator: *I now want to ask you about certain behaviour that has happened to women in the Maldives, and may have happened to you. In each case, I will ask if the behaviour has ever happened to you, and also if it has happened during the past two years. I want to remind you that this interview is confidential. However, you do not have to answer any questions you do not want to. Some questions may be difficult to answer, but many women have found it useful to have the opportunity to talk about these things.*

OR *[Where self-administered]*

Enumerator: *I am now going to give you a questionnaire form which I want you to fill out. The form is about certain behaviour that has happened in the Maldives and may have happened to you. I will not be able to see your answers to the questionnaire. When you have completed the questionnaire I want you to seal it in the attached envelope, which will not be opened until after all enumerators leave this island and the survey is completed and the questionnaires are being analysed.*

Note: RF/DK/NA = Refused/Don't Know/No Answer

- Please circle the appropriate answer

Instance/ Question	1. RF/DK/NA A/ B/ C	2. Ever	3. In past 2 years	4. Never
127. A man rubbed himself up against you [ungulhey] or touched you on the breasts or bottom in the street, at the night market or any other public place?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
128. A man grabbed your hand in a public place?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
129. A man rubbed himself up against you or touched you on the breasts or bottom on, or when getting on or off, a ferry or other vessel?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
130. A man made obscene or offensive sexual comments to you?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
131. A man rubbed up against you or touched you on the breasts or bottom when you were swimming with other people?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4

The following questions need only be answered by employed women:

Instance/ Question	1. RF/DK/NA A/ B/ C	2. Ever	3. In past 2 years	4. Never
132. Another employee, or your boss, touched you inappropriately at work, such as rubbing up against you, touching you on the breasts or bottom or patting, pinching or stroking you?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
133. At work, constantly uses obscene or sexually suggestive language/ remarks aimed at you or your female colleagues?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
134. At work, persistently suggested that you have sex with him or begin a sexual relationship?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
135. At work, you were shown/exposed to pornography or sexually explicit photos, text etc	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
136. At work, threatened you or implied trouble if you did not have sex with him or begin a sexual relationship?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4
137. At work, forced you to have sex with him against your will, or attempted to do this [forced Ziney]?	1. A/ B/ C	2	3	4

138 If you answered yes to any question above (132 – 137) about sexual harassment at work, what action did you take?

1. No action [Skip to question **140**]
2. Told a friend or a member of my family about what happened
3. Told a colleague at work about what happened
4. Complained to the boss at work
5. Complained to another authority such as the police, Island Office, Atoll Office or the Gender Ministry
6. Resigned from work
7. DK/RF/NA

139 Did the action you took:

1. Improve the situation?
2. Make the situation worse?
3. Make no difference?
4. DK/RF/NA

140 If you took no action/ did not complain about what happened, why not?
(Circle as many as you like)

1. Afraid I would not be believed
2. Afraid of people knowing/bringing bad name to family
3. Not a serious enough problem/normal behaviour
4. Embarrassed or ashamed
5. Afraid of losing my job
6. Police or authorities wouldn't do anything
7. Didn't know what to do or where to go
8. Other

.....
RF/DK/NA

END OF QUESTIONNAIRE!