

**IPSOS PRESS RELEASE :**

# **Global attitudes towards refugees**

**Ipsos Malaysia**

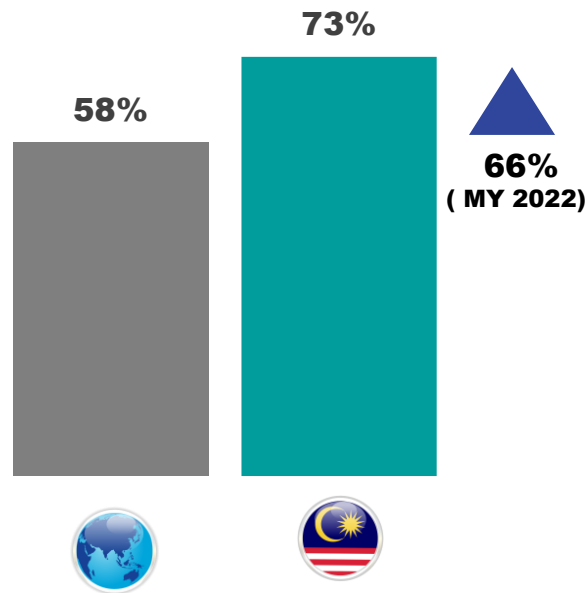
Wed, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023



# MALAYSIANS FAVOUR CLOSING THEIR BORDERS TO REFUGEES, AS THEY PERCEIVE THEM TO SEEK ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES RATHER THAN FLEEING PERSECUTION OR VIOLENCE

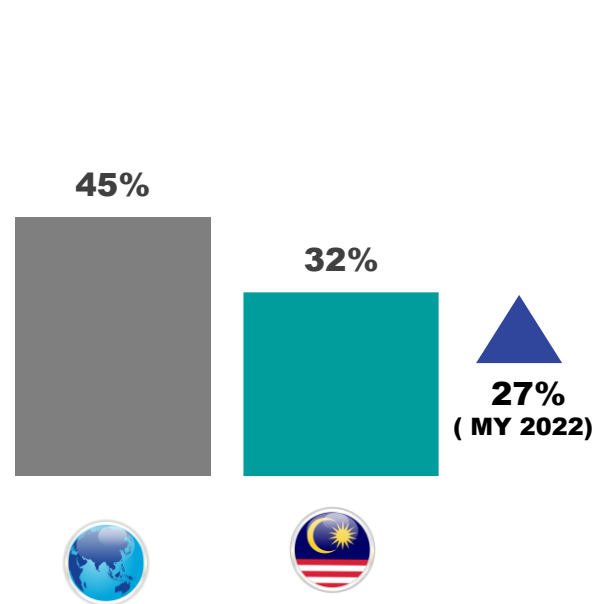
**Most foreigners who want to get into my country as a refugee really aren't refugees. They just want to come here for economic reasons or to take advantage of our welfare services?**

(% Very much / somewhat agree)



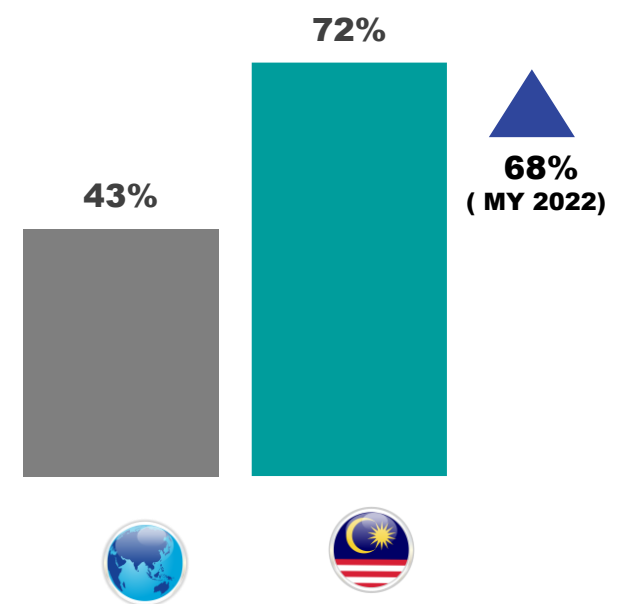
**Refugees make a positive contribution to country?**

(% Very much / somewhat agree)



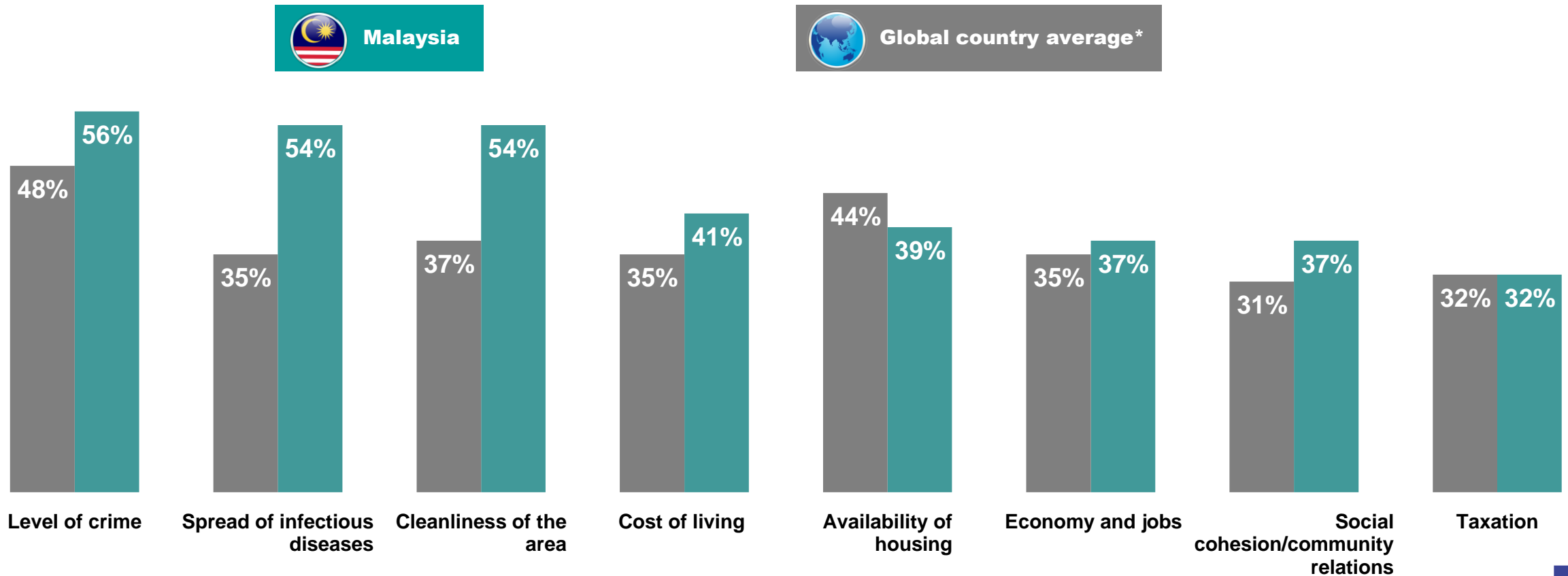
**We must close our borders to refugees entirely – we can't accept any at this time?**

(% Very much / somewhat agree)



# MALAYSIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WORSENING LEVEL OF CRIME, DISEASES, AND CLEANLINESS DUE TO REFUGEES RESIDING IN THEIR AREA

How much better or worse do you think refugees have made or would make the following in the area where you live?  
(% Worse)



3 – Base: 21,816 online adults aged 18+ across 29 countries, 21 APRIL – 5 MAY 2023

\*The Global Country Average\* reflects the average result for all the countries where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country and is not intended to suggest a total result





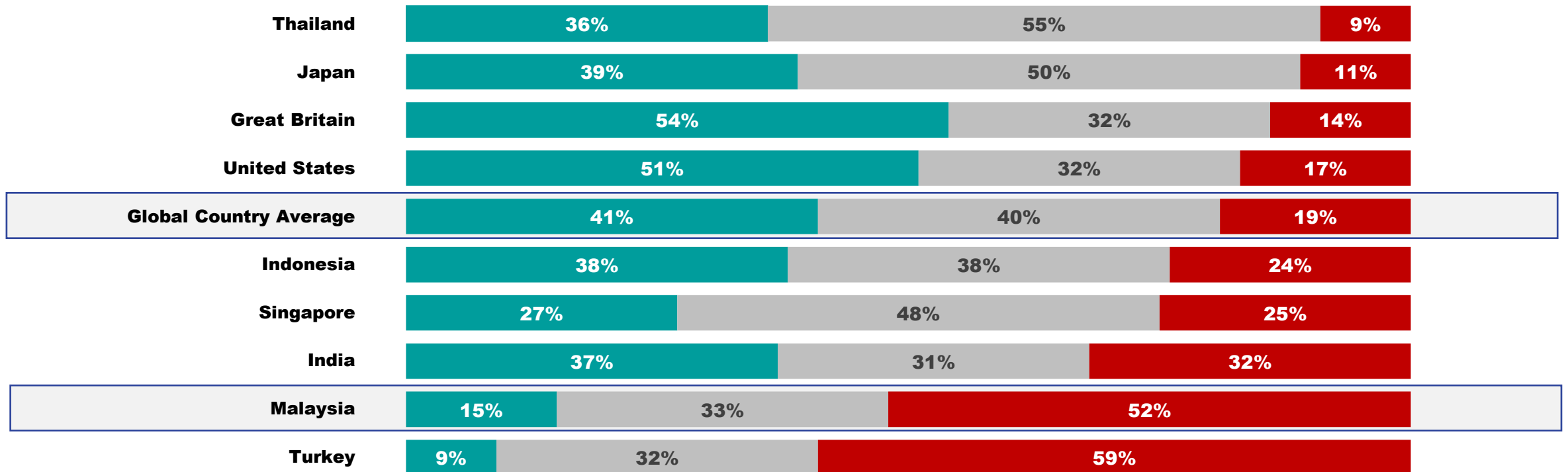
# TURKEY AND MALAYSIA ARE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRICT MEASURES ON REFUGEES. IN GENERAL, SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES DO NOT FAVOUR ACCEPTING MORE REFUGEES

Which of the following best reflects your opinion about what the [COUNTRY] government should do about refugees in [COUNTRY]?

*Let refugees who are currently in [COUNTRY] stay and allow more in*

*Let refugees who are currently in [COUNTRY] stay, but not allow any more in*

*Deport refugees currently in [COUNTRY] and not allow any more in*



## Global attitudes towards refugees

Malaysians are opposed to accepting refugees into the country. Attitude towards refugees has become less positive globally and in Malaysia since 2022.

Many Malaysians view refugees as economic opportunists who do not contribute to the nation's development. Additionally, over half of the population associates refugees with increased crime, infectious diseases, and lack of cleanliness in their communities.

Public opinion on government policies towards refugees varies widely across the world. While countries such as New Zealand, Canada, Spain, and Brazil are open to accepting more refugees, those in Asia, particularly Southeast Asia, are willing to allow those who are already present to stay, but not any additional refugees.

Turkish and Malaysian populations have expressed the strongest opinions, with over half of them wanting to deport current refugees and not accepting any more. These countries do not see any compelling reason to take in more refugees, whether its humanitarian, legal, or economic reasons.



**Arun Menon**

Managing Director, Ipsos Malaysia

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This is why our passionately curious experts not only provide the most precise measurement, but shape it to provide True Understanding of Society, Markets and People.

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So that our clients can act faster, smarter and bolder. Ultimately, success comes down to a simple truth:  
**You act better when you are sure.**