

# PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR PROTEST ACTION

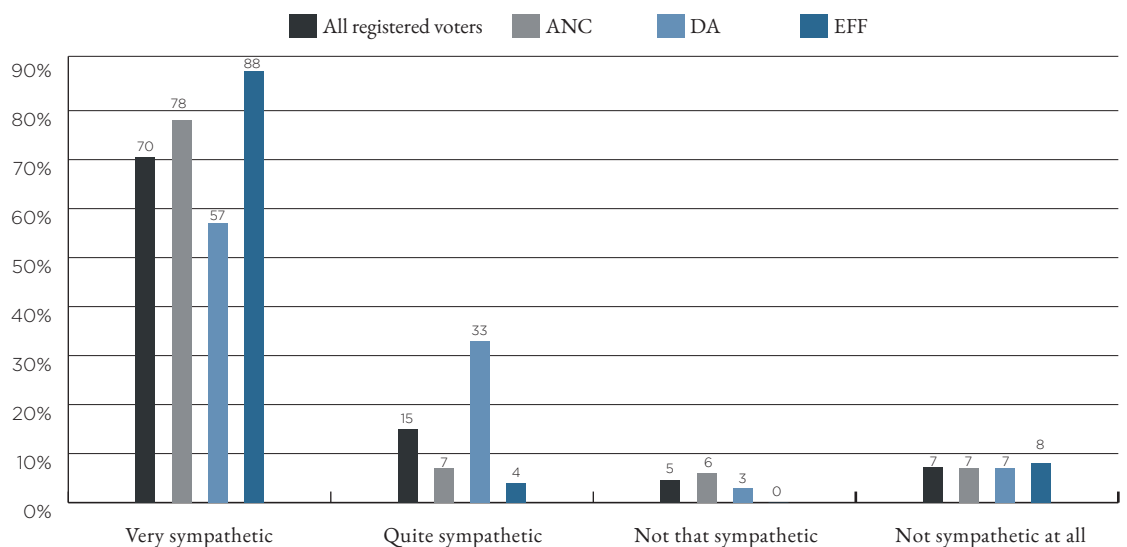
**The Foundation is in the process of releasing a series of reports about protest action in South Africa.**

The third of those reports follows below and investigates what share of registered voters state that they are sympathetic to peaceful or violent protests. In total five reports will be released on issues ranging from whether South Africans have participated in peaceful or violent protest actions in the past to whether they may do so in future, to how sympathetic they are towards protest action, to whether communities are justified in resorting to violent protest action, and finally whether they perceive their communities to be at risk of violent protest action.

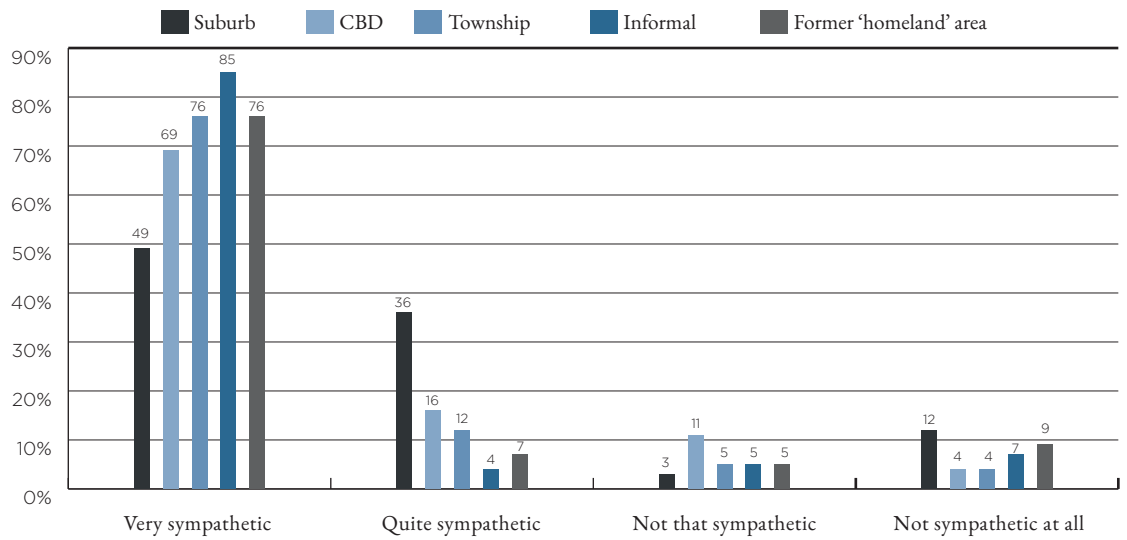
The data is based on a survey of 1 517 demographically and regionally representative registered voters completed in March of 2023. The survey had a national margin of error of 4%. Totals may not add up to 100% where respondents could not answer a question or where rounding has occurred. Whilst the data relates only to registered voters it can with caution and within limits be extrapolated to the broader adult population.

## HOW SYMPATHETIC ARE YOU TO PEOPLE WHO UNDERTAKE PEACEFUL PROTEST ACTION FOR CHANGE?

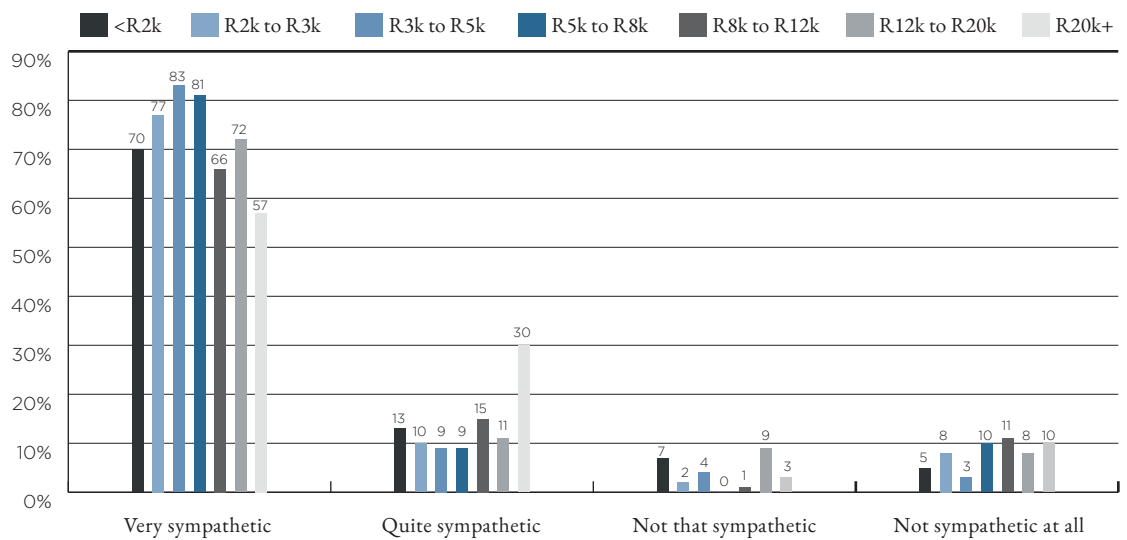
All registered voters and by party affiliation



## By place of residence

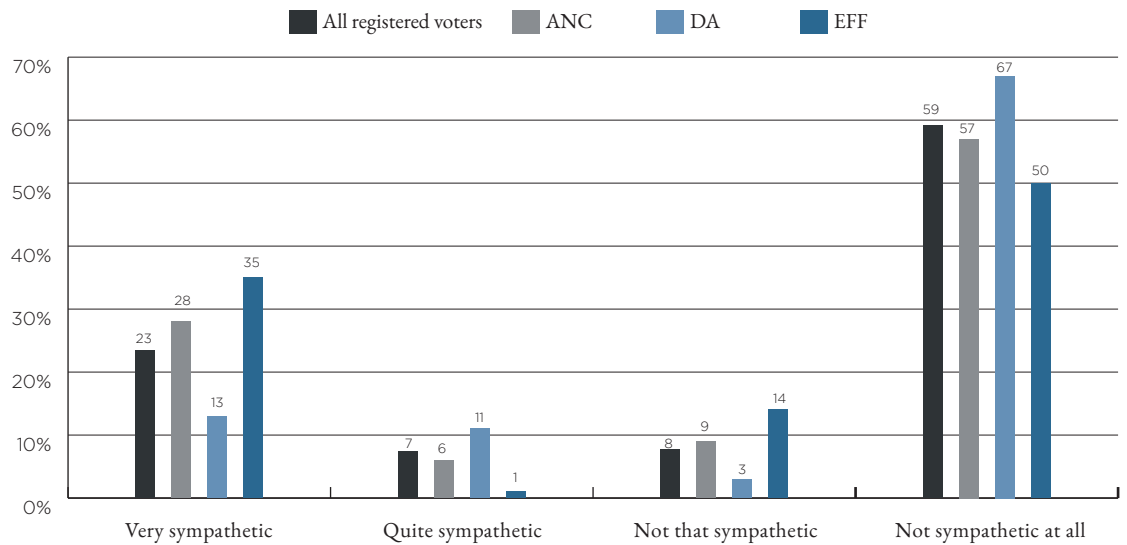


## By monthly income

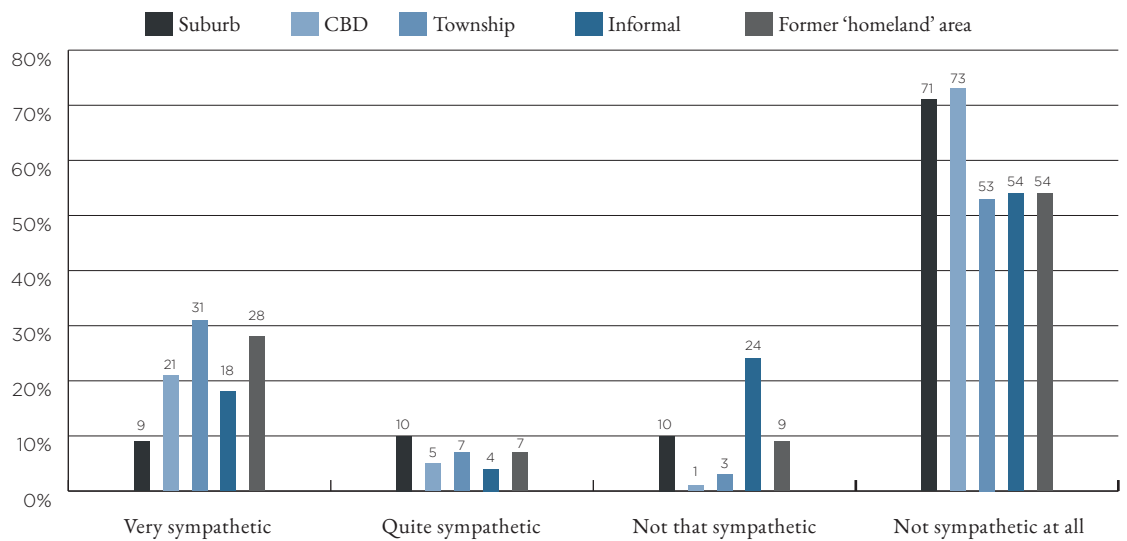


# HOW SYMPATHETIC ARE YOU TO PEOPLE WHO UNDERTAKE VIOLENT PROTEST ACTION FOR CHANGE?

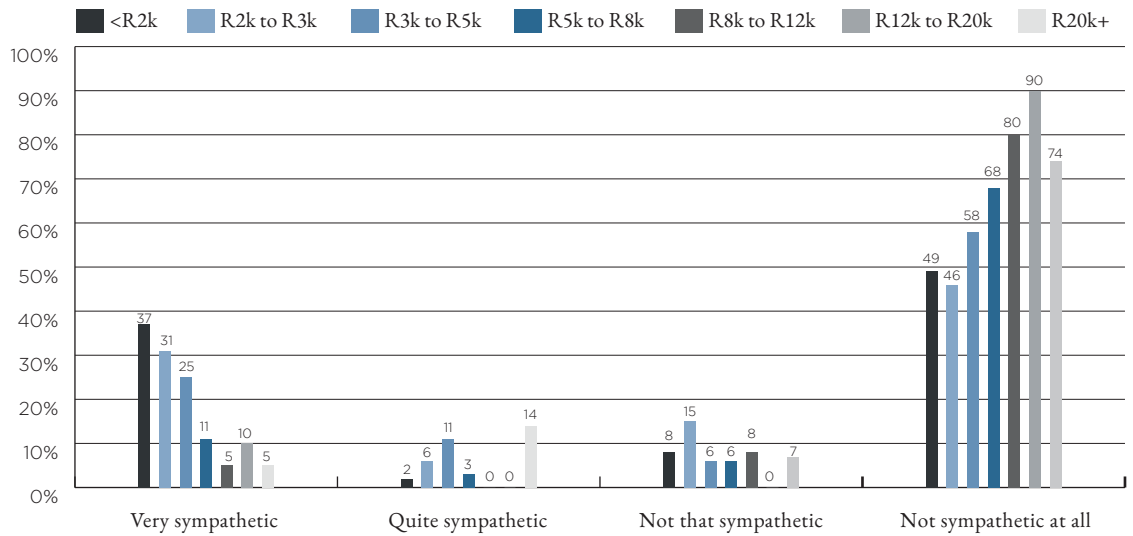
All registered voters and by party affiliation



By place of residence



## By monthly income



## TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS

Of all registered voters 85.6% are sympathetic to people who undertake peaceful protest actions for change and 30.8% are sympathetic to those who undertake violent protest actions for change. When broken down across party lines, 85% of ANC voters, 90% of DA voters and 92% of EFF voters are sympathetic to people who undertake peaceful protest actions. Across lines of residence, 85% of voters living in suburbs, 85% of voters living in CBDs, 88% of voters living in townships, 89% of voters living in informal settlements and 83% of voters living in former 'homeland' areas are sympathetic to people who undertake peaceful protest actions. Across income brackets, 83% of voters earning under R2 000 a month, 87% of voters earning between R2 000 and R3 000 a month, 92% of voters earning between R3 000 and R5 000 a month, 90% of voters earning between R5 000 to R8 000 a month, 81% of voters earning between R8 000 to R12 000 a month, 83% of voters earning between R12 000 to R20 000 a month and 87% of voters earning over R20 000 a month are sympathetic to people who undertake peaceful protest actions for change.

With regards to violent protest actions, 34% of ANC voters, 24% of DA voters and 36% of EFF voters are sympathetic to people who undertake violent protest actions for change. Across lines of residence, 19% of voters living in suburbs, 26% of voters living in CBDs, 38% of voters living in townships, 22% of voters living in informal settlements and 35% of voters living in former 'homeland' areas are sympathetic to violent protest actions. When broken down across income brackets, 39% of voters earning under R2 000 a month, 37% of voters earning between R2 000 and R3 000 a month, 36% of voters earning between R3 000 to R5 000 a month, 14% of voters earning between R5 000 to R8 000 a month, 5% of voters earning between R8 000 to R12 000 a month, 10% of voters earning between R12 000 to R20 000 a month and 19% of voters earning above R20 000 a month said that they were sympathetic towards people who undertake violent protest actions for change.

**This report was produced by the Social Research Foundation, a think-tank focusing on public policy issues and the promotion of democracy.**

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