

IRAN

Americans, Britons and Canadians Think Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons

In Britain and Canada, respondents prefer direct diplomatic negotiations, while one-in-four Americans support air strikes or a full-scale invasion.

[SAN FRANCISCO - Jan. 11, 2010] - A majority of respondents in the United States, Britain and Canada believe Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons, but respondents are divided on how to approach the issue at this time, a new three-country Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of representative national samples also found that three-in-four respondents in each one of the countries surveyed (79% in Britain, 78% in the U.S. and 74% in Canada) hold an unfavourable opinion of Iran.

The poll was conducted after Iran failed to agree to a proposal by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which called on Iran to transfer low-enriched uranium abroad for processing to turn it into fuel-making uranium.

Two-thirds of respondents in Canada (66%) believe the Government of Iran is attempting to develop nuclear weapons. The sentiment is echoed by 63 per cent of Britons, and 71 per cent of Americans.

Respondents were provided with five possible scenarios to deal with Iran at this time. Only five per cent of Britons, four per cent of Americans and four per cent of Canadians believe Iran poses no threat to the world and nothing should be done.

KEY FINDINGS

- **71% of Americans, 66% of Canadians and 63% of Britons think the Government of Iran is attempting to develop nuclear weapons**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From January 5 to January 6, 2010 Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,019 Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists, 1,001 American adults who are Springboard America panellists, and 2,005 British adults who are Springboard UK panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for Canada and the United States, and 2.2 per cent for Great Britain. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada, the US and Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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Half of Britons (52%) and two-in-five Canadians (44%) would engage Iran in direct diplomatic negotiations, a view shared by just 26 per cent of Americans.




Imposing economic sanctions against Iran is supported by roughly the same proportion of respondents in each one of the three countries surveyed (21% in the U.S., and 18% in both Britain and Canada).




In the U.S., 17 per cent of respondents would launch military strikes to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities. Eleven per cent of Canadians and six per cent of Britons agree with this course of action.

Finally, nine per cent of Americans, six per cent of Canadians and five per cent of Britons would authorize a full-scale invasion of Iran to remove the current government.

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Iran			
Do you generally have a favourable or unfavourable opinion of Iran?			
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Favourable	7%	3%	4%
Unfavourable	74%	78%	79%
Not sure	19%	19%	16%

Iran			
From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with the following statement? – “The Government of Iran is attempting to develop nuclear weapons.”			
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Strongly agree	31%	47%	29%
Moderately agree	35%	24%	34%
Moderately disagree	5%	5%	6%
Strongly disagree	13%	5%	9%
Not sure	16%	18%	21%

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Iran			
Which of these five options would you prefer to deal with Iran at this time?			
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Doing nothing; Iran poses no threat to the world	4%	4%	5%
Engaging Iran in direct diplomatic negotiations	44%	26%	52%
Imposing economic sanctions against Iran	18%	21%	18%
Launching military strikes to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities	11%	17%	6%
Authorizing a full-scale invasion of Iran and removing the current government	6%	9%	5%
Not sure	18%	23%	15%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is the public affairs practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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