



The Past, Present, and Future of Trust in Community and Spiritual Life

Ted Kyle

Georg Neumark
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If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide
thee, to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.

Georg Neumark
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Objectives

- Some fundamentals of trust
- Biblical concepts of trust
- Trust in our communities and spiritual lives

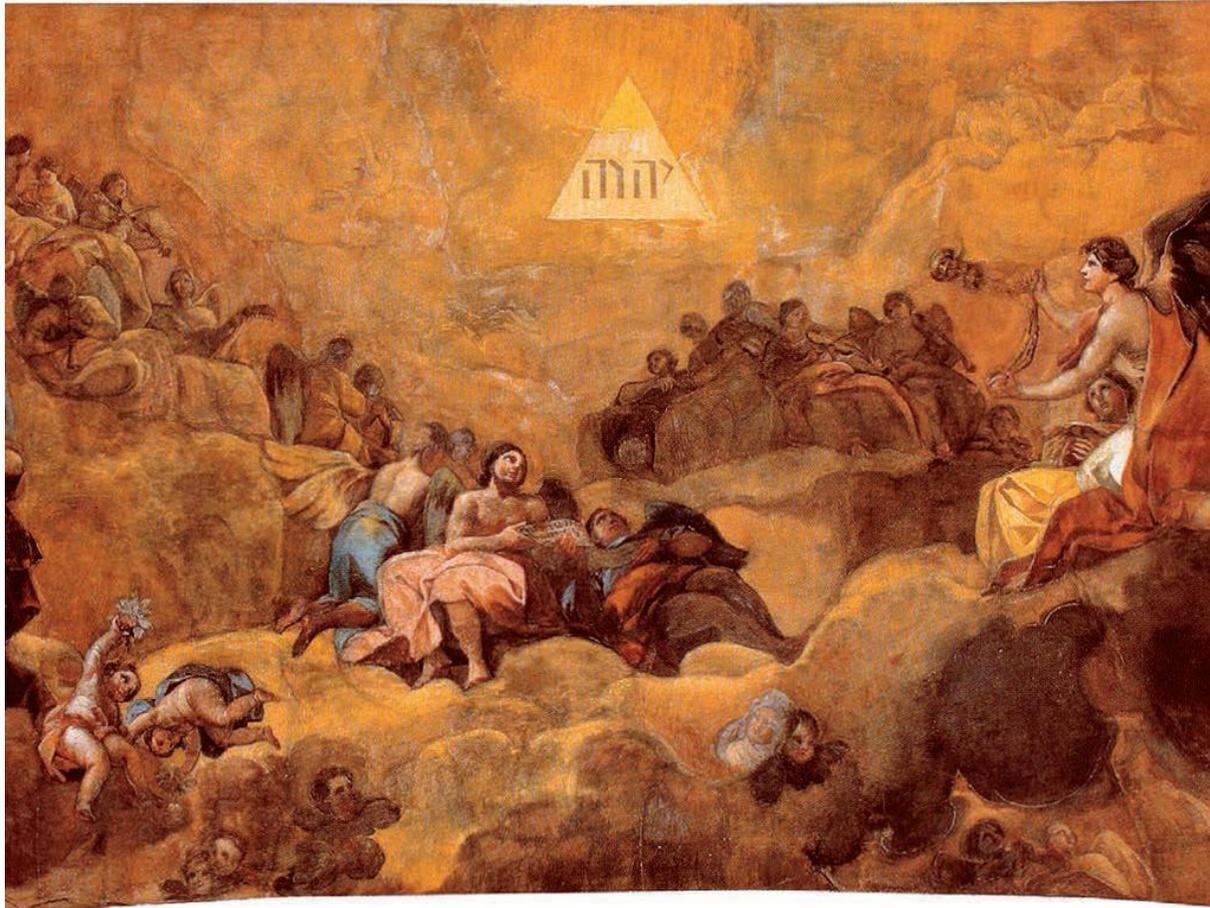
Robyn Pashby, PhD

Health Psychology Partners

Washington, DC



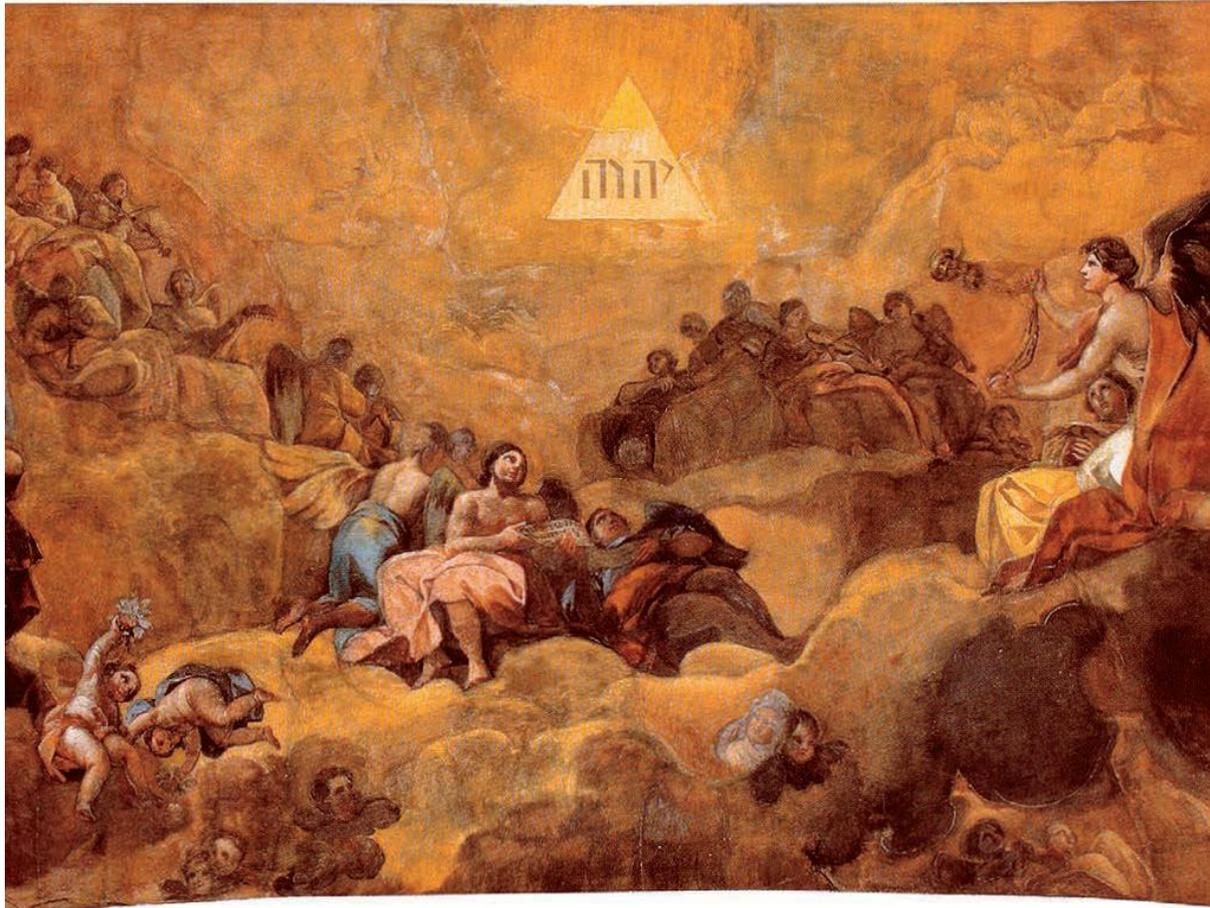
Trust in God Is the Foundation of Faith



The Adoration of the Name of The Lord, painting by Francisco Goya / WikiArt

God is our refuge and our strength,
Our ever-present aid,
And therefore,
Though the Earth may move,
We will not be afraid

Trust in God Is the Foundation of Faith



The Adoration of the Name of The Lord, painting by Francisco Goya / WikiArt

James 2:17

**So, faith by itself,
if it has no works, is dead.**

**Genuine trust in God manifests in a
life that seeks to follow God's will
and commands, reflecting a secure
foundation built on God's truth.**

Trust in God Is the Foundation of Faith



The Peaceable Kingdom, painting by Edward Hicks / WikiArt

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Scripture calls us to live in love with one another while recognizing we need God's grace.

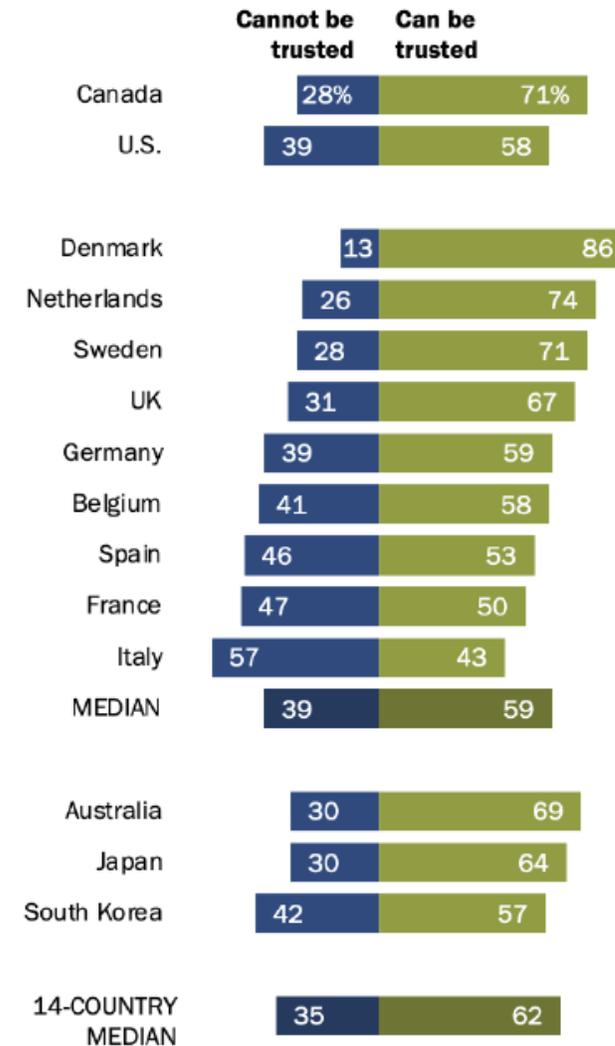
So, trust in God is above all else.

Are We Trusting Our Neighbors As Well As Loving Them?

The share of adults who said “most people can be trusted” declined from 46% in 1972 to 34% in 2024, according to the General Social Survey (NORC, University of Chicago).

Majorities in most surveyed countries say most people can be trusted

% who say that, in general, most people ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q5.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

2025 Edelman Trust Barometer

Global Report
Trust and the Crisis of Grievance

→ Edelman
Trust Institute

25
YEARS Edelman
Trust
Barometer



2025 Edelman Trust Barometer

Methodology

Annual online survey in its 25th year

Fieldwork conducted: Oct 25 – Nov 16, 2024



Argentina	Colombia	Ireland	Mexico	S. Africa	UAE
Australia	France	Italy	Netherlands	S. Korea	UK
Brazil	Germany	Japan	Nigeria	Spain	U.S.
Canada**	India	Kenya	Saudi Arabia	Sweden	
China	Indonesia	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand	

Data collected is representative of the general population across age, gender, region and ethnicity/nationality (where applicable) within each country.

*The sample size varies by country, from 1,150 to 2,124.

28-market global data margin of error: General population +/- 0.7 percentage points (n=33,194). Country-specific data margin of error: General population +/- 2.8 to 3.8 percentage points (varies by country based on sample size, n=1,150 to n=2,124). Margin of error is calculated at the 99% confidence level.

**Respondents in Canada who took the survey in French were recontacted between December 12 and 17, 2024 to address a translation issue affecting some questions.

Global averages

Unless otherwise indicated, global averages are composed of all 28 countries surveyed.

Statistical significance

— 0 — + Significant change

Indicates a statistically meaningful difference or change in the data that is unlikely to be due to chance or a random fluctuation.

All indicated year-over-year significant changes were determined using a t-test set at a 99%+ confidence level.

Shortened question text

Throughout the report, question text has been edited for readability.

For more details on the margin of error, global averages, country-specific sample information, or to see the full text for any shortened statements, please see the Technical Appendix.

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25 Years: World Events Put Trust Under Pressure

2003

Iraq Invasion
Trust in government declines in U.S.

2016

Populism Powers Brexit
Trust inequality grows, trust in media declines

2022

Invasion of Ukraine
Geopolitical conflicts spark brand boycotts



1999

Battle of Seattle
WTO protests inspire first Edelman Trust Barometer; NGOs found to be most trusted institution

2008

Financial Crisis
Trust in banks crashes

2020

COVID-19 Pandemic
Business tied, then surpassed NGOs as most trusted institution

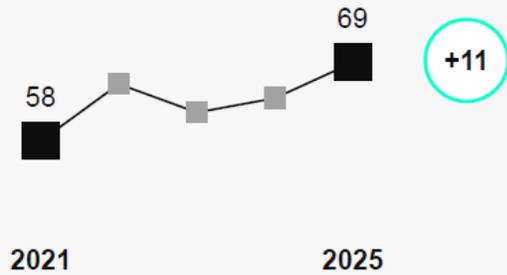


Fear That Leaders Lie to Us at All-Time High

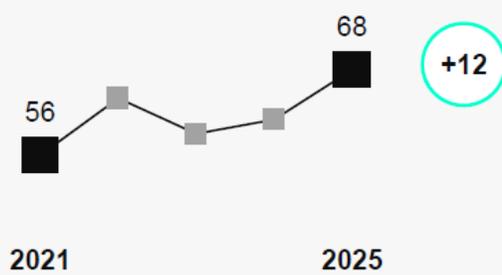
Percent who worry

GLOBAL 26  Change, 2021 to 2025  Significant change

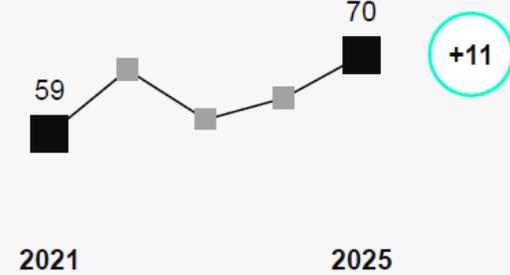
Government leaders



Business leaders



Journalists and reporters



purposely mislead people
by saying things they know are false or gross exaggerations

2025 Edelman Trust Barometer. POP_EMO. Some people say they worry about many things while others say they have few concerns. We are interested in what you worry about. Specifically, how much do you worry about each of the following? 9-point scale; top 4 box, worry. Attributes asked of half the sample. General population, 26-mkt avg. Year-over-year changes were tested for significance using a t-test set at the 99%+ confidence level. The all-time highs and lows analysis comprised countries with at least five waves of data collection.



Majority Convinced the Wealthy Take More Than Their Fair Share

Percent who agree

GLOBAL 28

The wealthy
don't pay their fair share of taxes

67%

The wealthy's selfishness
causes many of our problems

65%

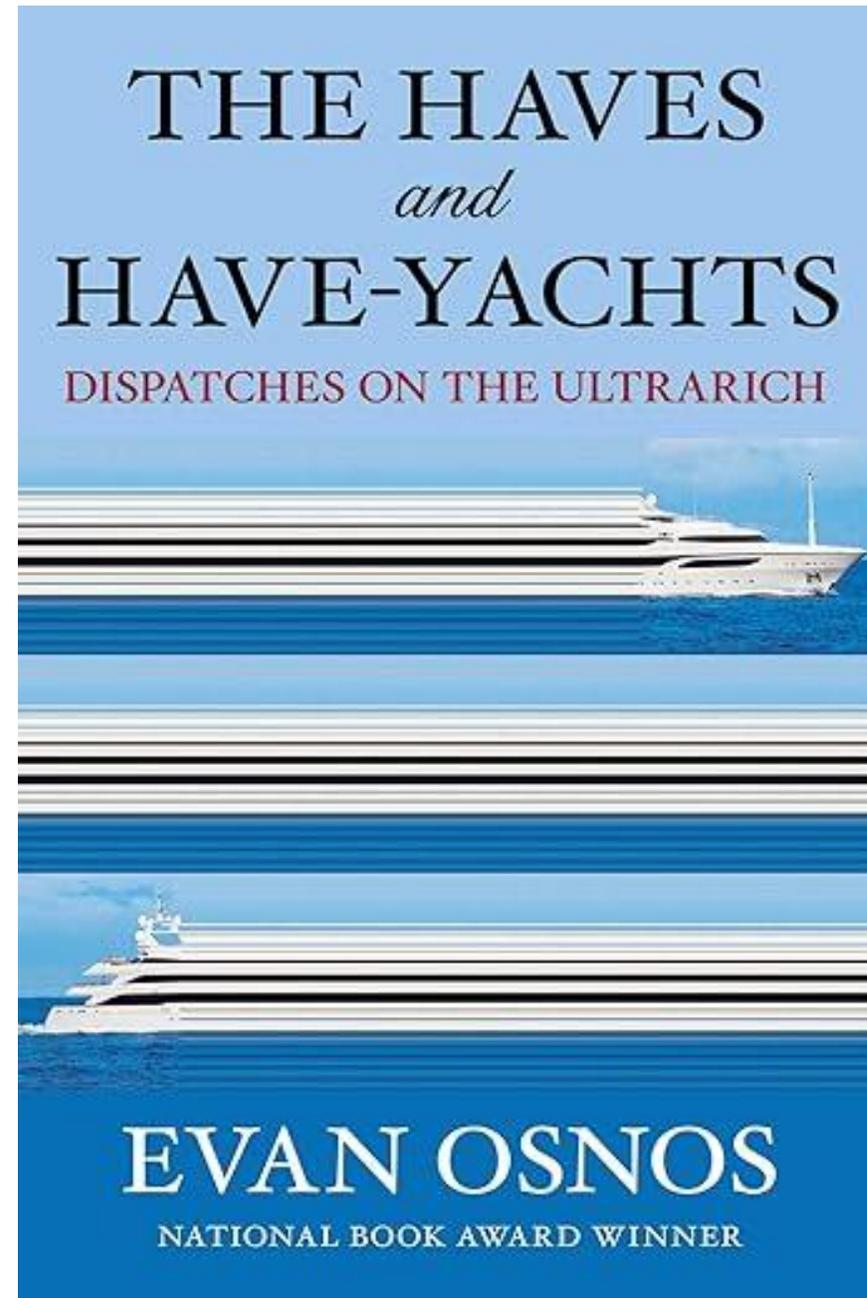
2025 Edelman Trust Barometer. WEA_AGR. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? 9-point scale; top 4 box, agree. Question asked of half the sample. General population, 28-mkt avg.



Extreme Disparities Attract Attention

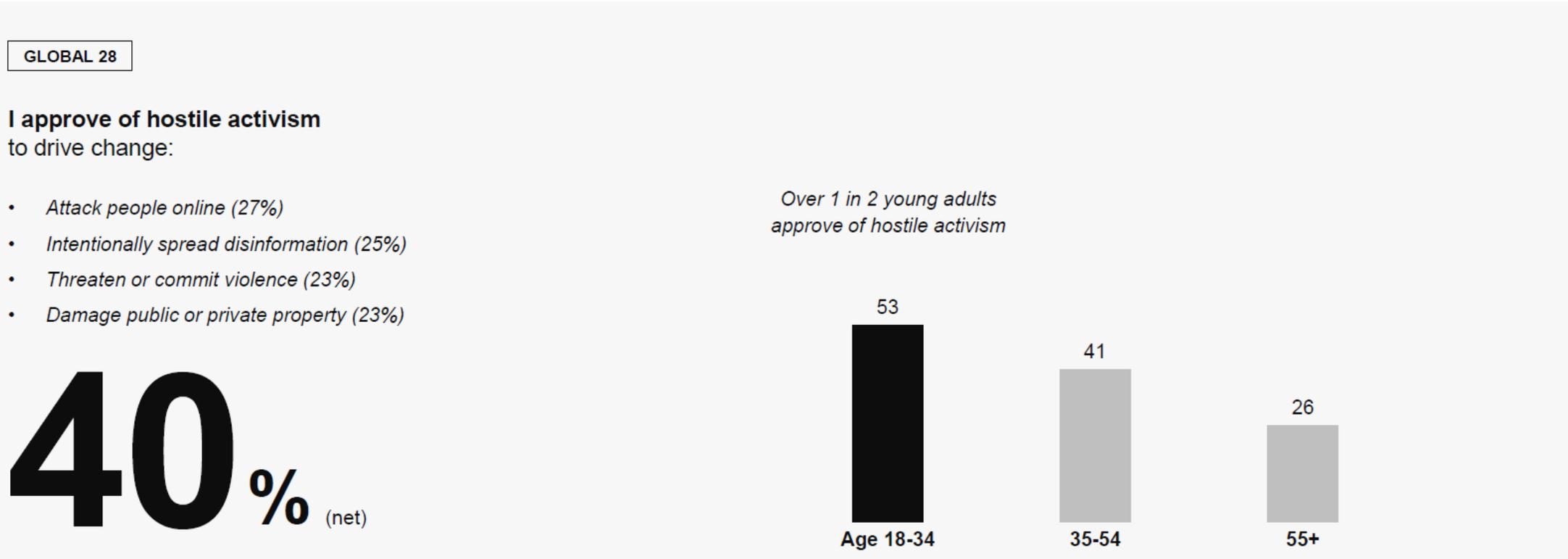


Viejita, photograph by Tomas Castelazo / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0



4 in 10 See Hostile Activism as a Viable Means to Drive Change

Percent who say



2025 Edelman Trust Barometer. CNG_MECH. Which actions would you approve of as ways to bring about societal changes you felt would give you and your family a better future? For each of the potential ways to bring about change listed below, pick the statement which best describes how you would feel if someone did this. 4-point scale, codes 3-4, approve. Question asked of half the sample. General population, 28-mkt avg., and by age. The "Hostile Activism" data is a net percentage of attributes 7-10, meaning the percentage of respondents who approved of one or more of the four items shown.



6 in 10 Hold Grievances Against Business, Government, and the Rich

Percent who hold a low, moderate, or high sense of grievance

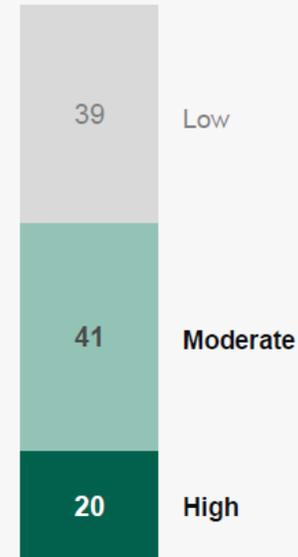
GLOBAL 26 excl. China, Thailand

I hold a sense of grievance because:

- *Business and government serve select few*
- *Business and government actions hurt me*
- *The system favors the rich*
- *The rich are getting richer*

My sense of grievance is moderate or higher

61%



2025 Edelman Trust Barometer. Sense of Grievance scale. General population, 26-mkt avg. Certain data included in the scale was not collected in China or Thailand. For a full explanation of how the Sense of Grievance scale was developed, please see the Technical Appendix.

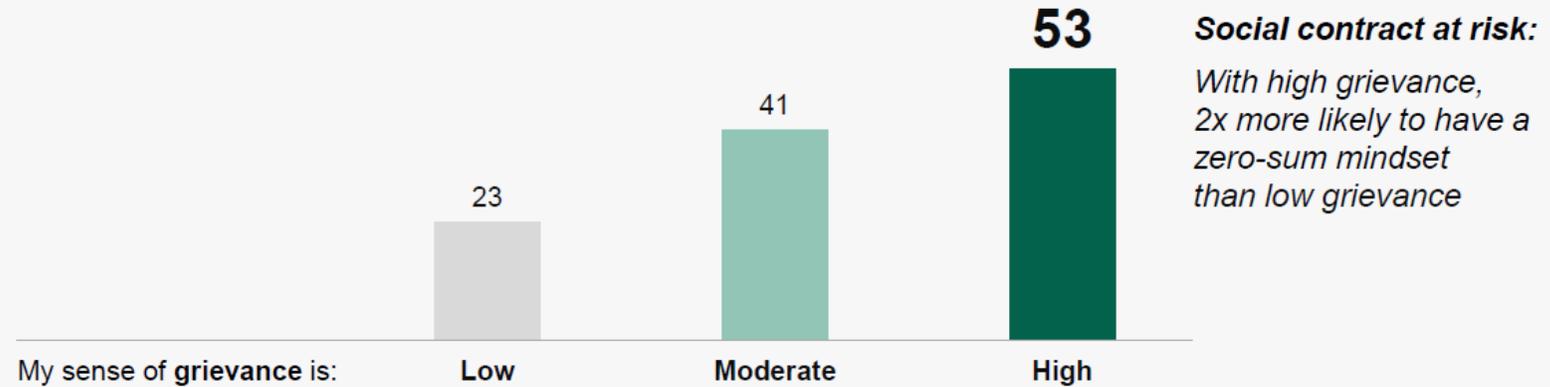


Your Gain is My Loss: Grievance Instills a Zero-Sum Mindset

Percent who say, by sense of grievance

GLOBAL 26 excl. China, Thailand

I have a **zero-sum mindset**:
What helps people who don't share
my politics comes at a cost to me

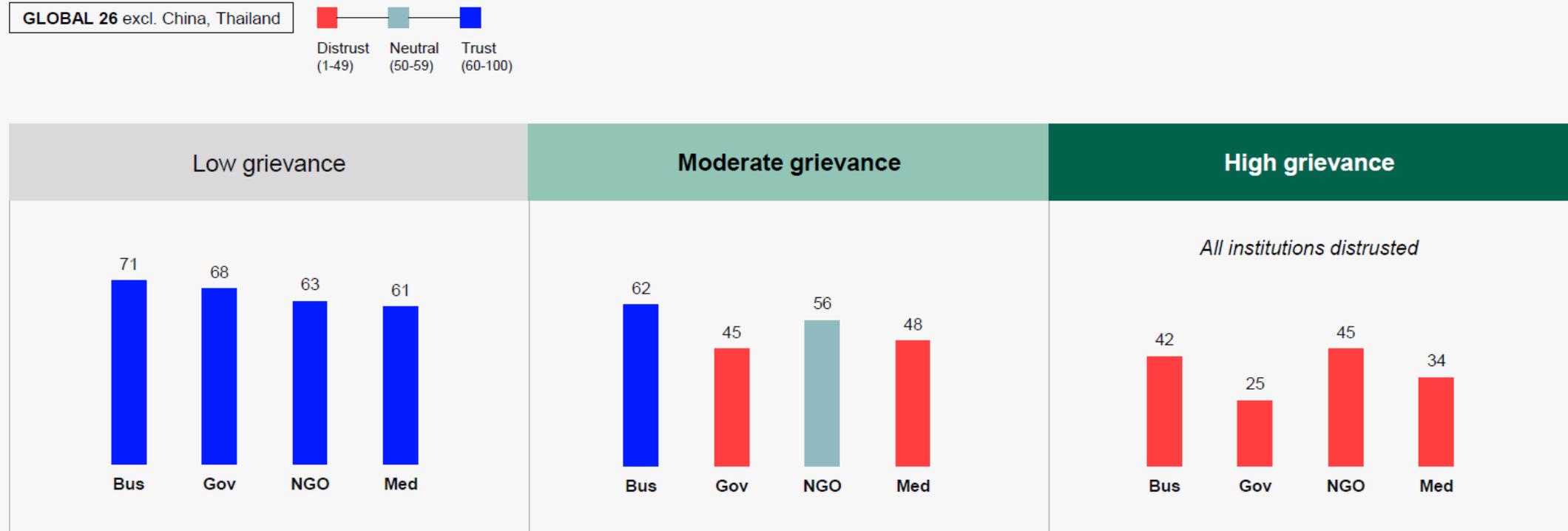


2025 Edelman Trust Barometer. POL_AFF. Please specify where your feelings about people in your own country who have different political beliefs than you fall on the scale between two opposing directions. 11-point scale; bottom 5 box, negative. Question asked of half the sample. General population, 26-mkt avg., by Sense of Grievance scale. Certain data included in the scale was not collected in China or Thailand. For a full explanation of how the Sense of Grievance scale was developed, please see the Technical Appendix.



Grievance Imposes a Trust Penalty

Percent trust, by sense of grievance



2025 Edelman Trust Barometer. TRU_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, 26-mkt avg., by Sense of Grievance scale. Certain data included in the scale was not collected in China or Thailand. For a full explanation of how the Sense of Grievance scale was developed, please see the Technical Appendix. "Bus" represents Business, "Gov" represents Government, "NGO" represents NGOs, and "Med" represents Media.



Closing Thoughts and Discussion

- We are called to trust in God
- To love our neighbors
- Trusting others is a challenge
- How can we live out our faith?



At Rest, painting by Wassily Kandinsky / WikiArt