

# DUTCH PUBLIC OPINION ON ISRAEL AND GAZA

## WHY DOES PUBLIC OPINION ON ISRAEL AND GAZA MATTER?<sup>i</sup>

Israel and Gaza are likely to be a defining foreign policy issue for the next Dutch government. As coalition negotiations take shape between D66, CDA and VVD, these political parties face choices about whether to continue, adjust or fundamentally rethink the Netherlands' position. Understanding how their own voters view Dutch policy on Israel and Gaza is therefore critical for shaping a credible and politically sustainable government programme.

This brief presents findings from a public opinion survey on January 2026 among respondents who self-reported having voted in the October 2025 House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) elections. Particularly, the brief centers on respondents who reported voting for D66, CDA and VVD, and analyzes their views on Dutch policy, international law, and political accountability related to Israel and Gaza<sup>ii</sup>.

## WHAT RESPONDENTS THINK ABOUT DUTCH POLICY ON ISRAEL AND GAZA

Across respondents who reported having voted, there is broad support for several accountability-oriented measures directed at Israeli political and military leadership. A majority of respondents support taking additional measures against Israeli government ministers, with 53% expressing support. A similar level of support is shown for taking additional measures against Israeli military commanders, at 55%. Imposing personal sanctions on Israeli government ministers and military commanders is supported by 61% of respondents, while 56% support contributing to the prosecution and trial of such Israeli officials.

Support remains substantial, though somewhat more divided, for economic and military measures. Nearly half of respondents, 48%, support banning trade with companies operating in illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. A larger majority, 64%, support banning trade with companies that are economically profiting from the violence in Gaza. Ending the arms trade between the Netherlands and Israel is supported by 57% of respondents, while ending all military cooperation between the Netherlands and Israel is supported by 48%, indicating a more evenly split opinion on this issue.

Official recognition of the Palestinian State is supported by around 54% of respondents, showing majority backing for a political pathway toward Palestinian self-determination.

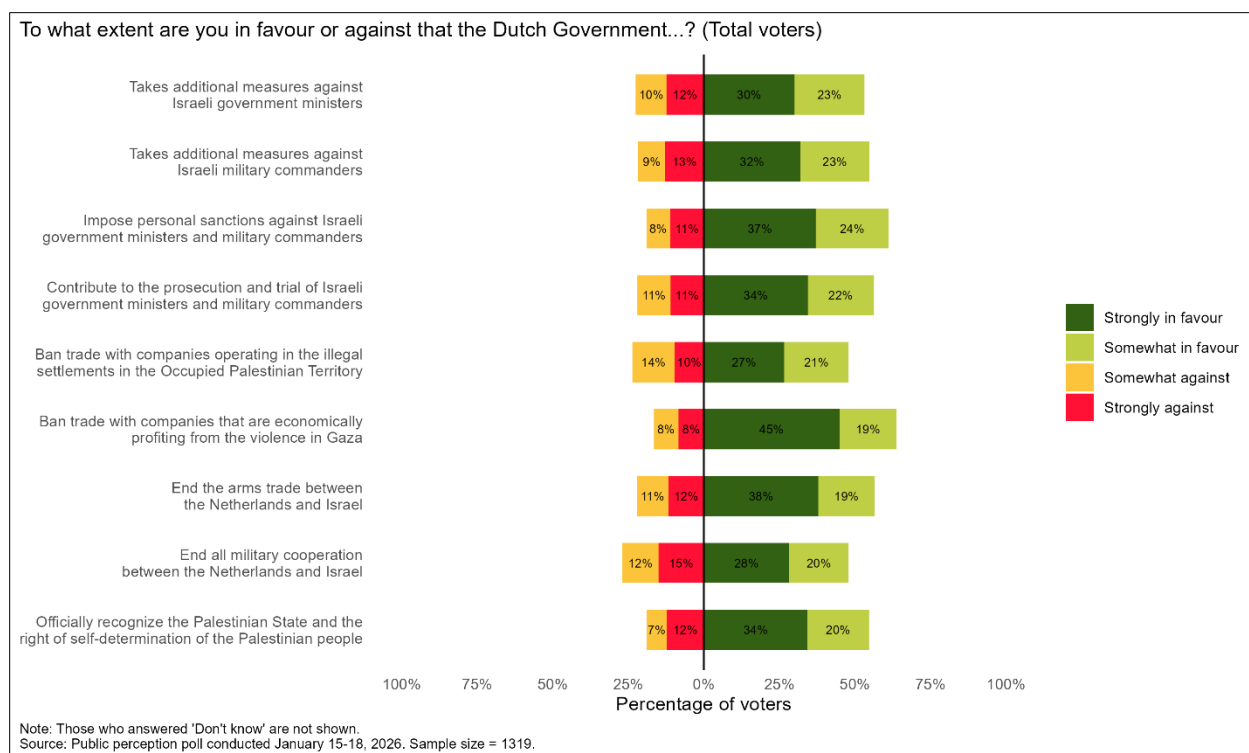


Figure 1. Support for Dutch policy measures related to Israel and Gaza among respondents who reported having voted in the October 2025 House of Representatives elections

## D66 VOTERS: STRONG SUPPORT FOR A FIRM AND PRINCIPLED STANCE

Among people who reported having voted for D66, support for the proposed measures is consistently high across all questions in the survey. Nearly three quarters, 71%, support taking additional measures against Israeli government ministers, while 75% support taking additional measures against Israeli military commanders. Support for imposing personal sanctions on Israeli government ministers and military commanders reaches 81%, and 76% support contributing to their prosecution and trial.

Economic measures and ending military cooperation also receive strong backing among respondents who reported having voted for D66. Banning trade with companies operating in illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is supported by 54%. Support rises to 80% for banning trade with companies economically profiting from the violence in Gaza. Ending the arms trade between the Netherlands and Israel is supported by 73% of these respondents, while 70% support ending all military cooperation between the Netherlands and Israel.

Recognition of the Palestinian State and the right of self-determination is supported by 77% of people who reported having voted for D66.

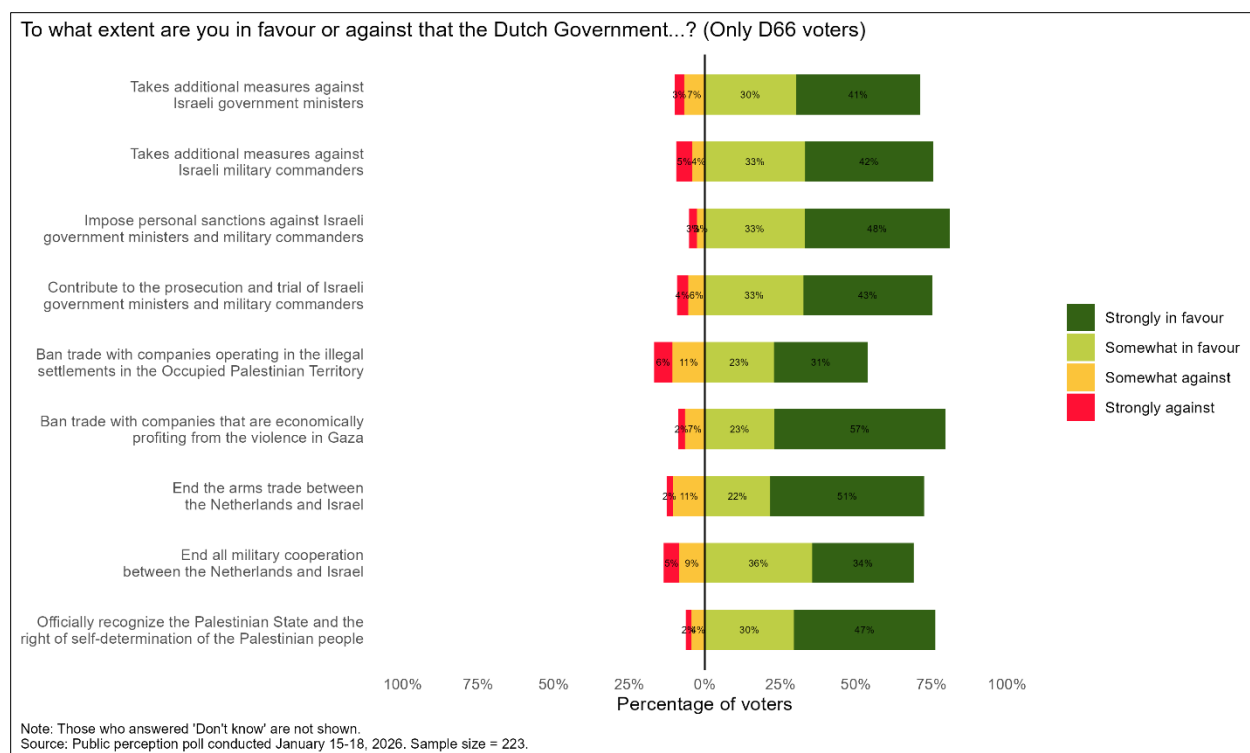


Figure 2. Support for Dutch policy measures related to Israel and Gaza among people who reported having voted for D66

## CDA VOTERS: SUPPORT IS HIGH FOR SANCTIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY, MIXED SUPPORT FOR TRADE BANS, DIVIDED ON ENDING MILITARY COOPERATION

Among people who reported having voted for CDA, a large majority supports several accountability-related measures, though opinions are mixed on economic and military cooperation. Taking additional measures against Israeli government ministers is supported by 64% of respondents who reported having voted for CDA, and 67% support taking additional measures against Israeli military commanders. Imposing personal sanctions on Israeli government ministers and military commanders receives support from 71% of people who reported having voted for CDA, while 64% support contributing to their prosecution and trial.

Views are divided when it comes to trade and military-related policies among respondents who reported having voted for CDA. Banning trade with companies operating in illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is supported by 43% of these respondents, just under half. In contrast, banning trade with companies economically profiting from the violence in Gaza is supported by 65%. Ending the arms trade between the Netherlands and Israel is supported by 52% of respondents who reported having voted for

CDA, and ending all military cooperation between the Netherlands and Israel receives the lowest level of support in this group, at 35%.

However, a majority of people who reported having voted for CDA, 53%, support recognizing the Palestinian State and the right of self-determination.

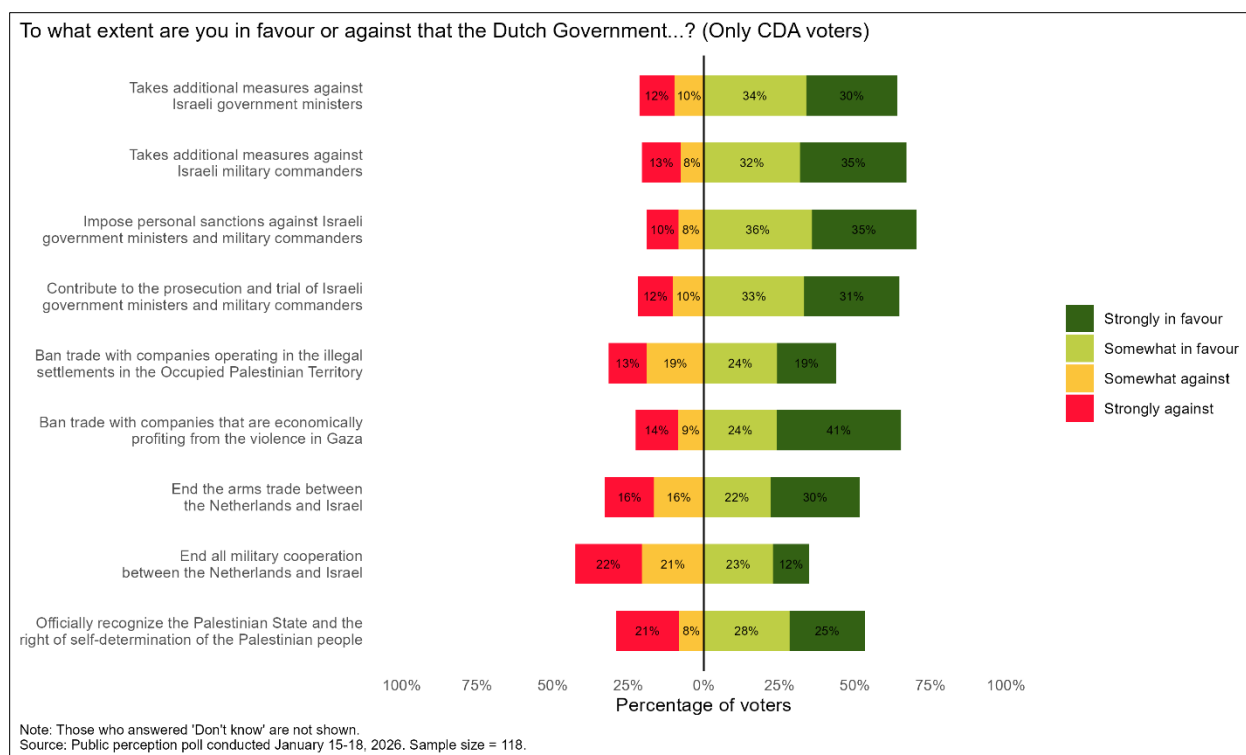


Figure 3. Support for Dutch policy measures related to Israel and Gaza among people who reported having voted for CDA.

## VVD VOTERS: CLEAR RED LINES AND DIVIDED VIEWS

Among people who reported having voted for VVD, there are clear red lines despite divided opinions across nearly all questions. Taking additional measures against Israeli government ministers is supported by 39% of people who reported having voted for VVD, and about 41% support taking additional measures against Israeli military commanders. Imposing personal sanctions on Israeli government ministers and military commanders is supported by 51%, while 44% support contributing to their prosecution and trial.

Economic measures receive mixed responses among respondents who reported having voted for VVD. Banning trade with companies operating in illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is supported by 44%. A majority of people who reported having voted for VVD, 54%, support banning trade with companies economically profiting from the violence in Gaza. Ending the arms trade between the Netherlands and Israel is supported by only 41% of respondents who reported having voted for VVD, while ending all military cooperation between the Netherlands and Israel receives support from 30%, making

it the least supported measure within this group. Recognition of the Palestinian State and the right of self-determination is supported by 52% of respondents who reported having voted for VVD.

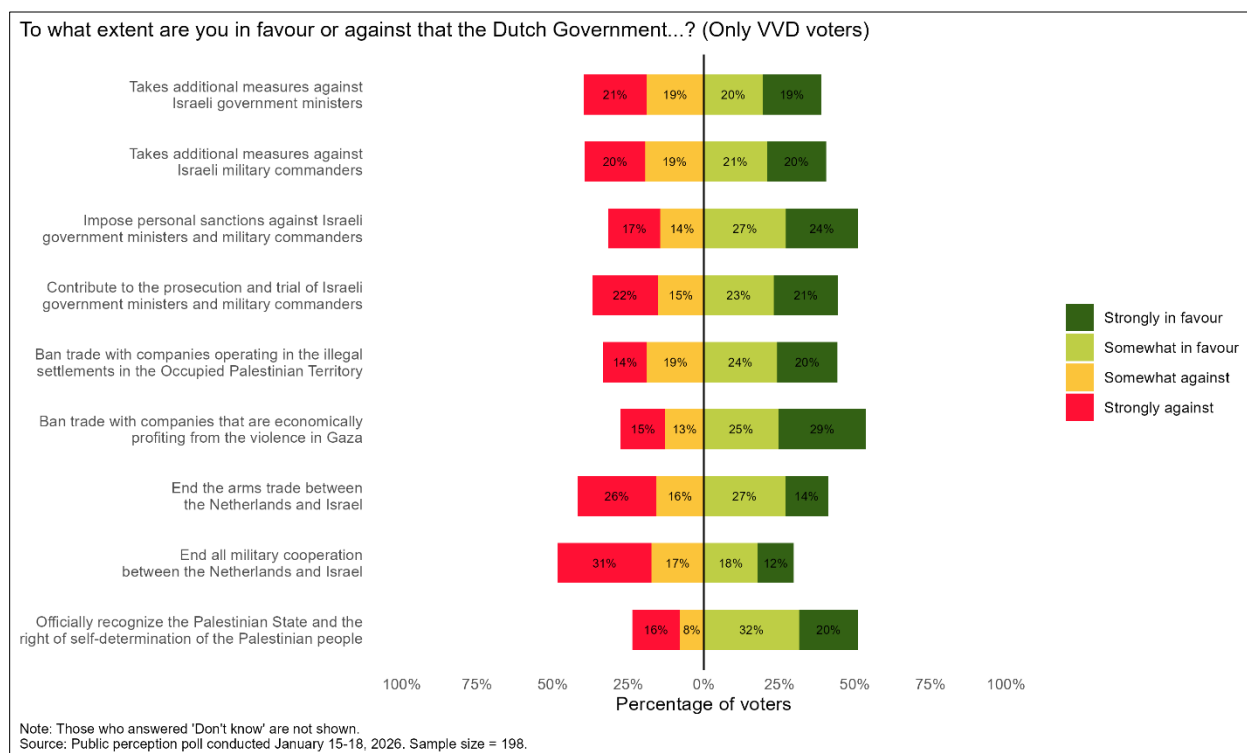


Figure 4. Support for Dutch policy measures related to Israel and Gaza among people who reported having voted for VVD.

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR A D66–CDA–VVD COALITION

The findings of this survey point to a clear and politically relevant overlap among voters of D66, CDA and VVD on Dutch policy towards Israel and Gaza. Across all three voter groups, there is majority support for accountability-focused measures, aimed at Israeli political and military leadership. A majority of voters in each party support taking additional measures against Israeli government ministers and military commanders, as well as imposing personal sanctions on them and contributing to their prosecution and trial. This shared support suggests that a coalition government has a strong public mandate, across its voter base, to pursue policies that emphasize accountability under international law.

There is also notable convergence on economic measures. Across D66, CDA and VVD voters, a majority support banning trade with companies that are economically profiting from the violence in Gaza. While levels of support vary, the direction of opinion is consistent across the coalition electorate, indicating space for action that targets economic involvement linked to the conflict rather than broad-based sanctions.

On the question of recognizing the Palestinian State and the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, support reaches a majority among voters of all three parties. This suggests that recognition of the Palestinian State is strongly endorsed by the entire voter base of the possible coalition between D66, CDA and VVD.

Taken together, these results show that respondents who voted for D66, CDA and VVD broadly align on the principle that the Netherlands should play a more active role in promoting accountability, upholding international law, and addressing economic dimensions of the conflict. This shared ground provides a solid foundation for a coalition government to include concrete commitments on Israel and Gaza in its governing programme, with confidence that such steps reflect the views of its own electorate rather than a single party constituency.

## METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

This public perception poll was designed, conducted and analysed by the research team at Oxfam Novib between 15 and 21 January 2026, using data collected through the ISO 20252-certified PanelWizard Direct panel via FactSnapp. The study focused on Dutch respondents who self-reported voting for D66, CDA or VVD in the October 2025 elections, drawing on 1,319 completed and valid survey responses.

To ensure that the results reflect the composition of this electorate, responses were statistically weighted to align with the CBS (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek) Netherlands population benchmarks on gender, age, region, education, employment status, family composition, voting participation and party choice. Weighting was applied using established survey research techniques commonly used in public opinion polling.

All analyses were carried out by researchers at Oxfam Novib using standard and established statistical methods.

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<sup>ii</sup> Results are described in the text as the combined percentage of respondents who are somewhat or strongly in favour of each measure. Respondents who answered “I don’t know” are not discussed in the text. However, across the measures examined, about 20% of voters selected “I don’t know”.