



[www.cameroon-cpi.org](http://www.cameroon-cpi.org)

11350 Random Hills Road Suite 800; Fairfax Virginia 22030, USA

---

# The 2023 Survey on the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon Final Report

## Contents

Acknowledgements & disclaimer .....	1
1. Background and Context .....	2
2. Why a Survey? .....	2
3. Results of the Survey.....	3
Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by gender and age group .....	3
Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by country and region of residence.....	3
Figure 3: Preferred form of State.....	4
4. Preliminary lessons from this Survey .....	4
5. Conclusions and the way forward. ....	4

### Acknowledgements & disclaimer

The Cameroon Peace Initiative (CPI) is grateful to the following members who contributed to the drafting, reviewing, and editing of this report: Dr. Theophile Bougna, Dr. Constantine Chienku, CPI's Co-Founder, Mr. Eric Chinje, CPI's Co-Founder, Dr Maximilien Onga Nana, Co-founder and Chair, Dr. Michel Leno, Mr. Paul F. Ndifor, Dr. Lucie Ngongbo, Dr. Dominique Njinkeu and Dr. Walters Samah. Most importantly, CPI is grateful to the survey respondents in Cameroon and abroad for their input.

The results represent the opinions of those who voluntarily completed the survey. We do not claim that they are necessarily the choice of the entire English-speaking population of Cameroon, however, they give a clear idea of the vision (or direction) that the respondents have for the future of Cameroon.

## **1. Background and Context**

The Anglophone Crisis refers to the ongoing armed conflict between Cameroon's armed forces and armed separatist groups operating in the country's two English-speaking regions, the Northwest and Southwest. The Anglophone-Francophone divide in Cameroon is a colonial construct that resulted from the merger in 1961 of the former British Southern Cameroons and former French Cameroun, following an UN-organized plebiscite. The current crisis resulted from the government's response to demonstrations in 2016-2017 by English-speaking lawyers and teachers. They were protesting government action in the judiciary and education sectors, and demanding an end to real or perceived marginalization of the Anglophone minority. The situation has since escalated into armed violence, with both sides accused of committing grave human rights violations and abuses. At least 4000 civilians have been killed and over 700,000 forcibly displaced. The Anglophone Crisis has undermined Cameroon's stability and national unity. Aware of the risks it poses to Cameroon, the CPI sent a Special Memo in September 2019 to key national and international stakeholders, including the Prime Minister, with ideas for genuine and sustainable peace in the country.

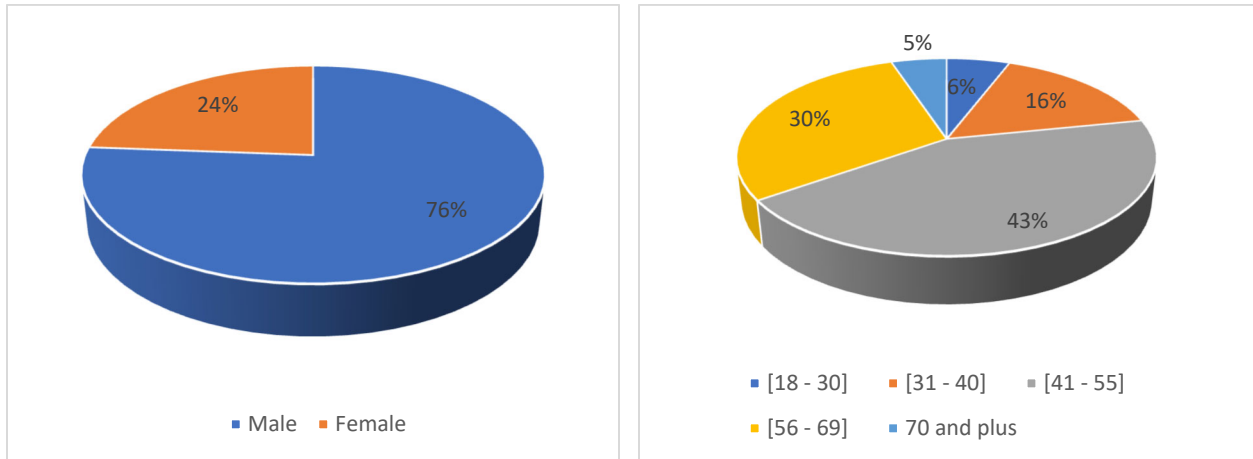
## **2. Why a Survey?**

The objective of the Survey is to gauge the views of the Anglophone Cameroonians on the form of the state, which has emerged as the most critical and contentious issue in efforts to resolve the ongoing crisis. Specifically, the survey is an attempt to garner the views of Cameroon's English-speaking minority on this crucial question. This survey is the first phase of a broader effort to find a peaceful resolution to the Anglophone Crisis.

The Survey consists of four questions. CPI used an application on Google.com to conduct the survey online, from 27 October to 20 December 2023. The section below summarizes the results, including the participant demographics and their views on the preferred form of state for Cameroon.

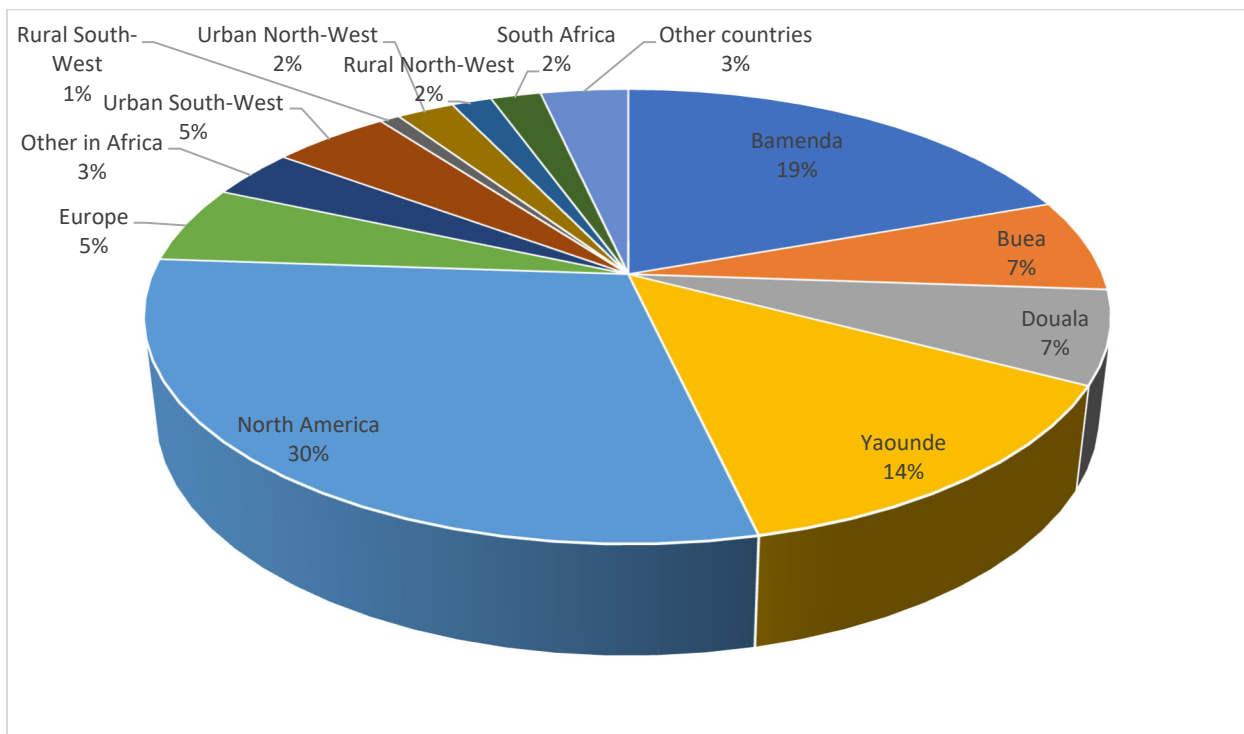
### 3. Results of the Survey

**Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by gender and age group**



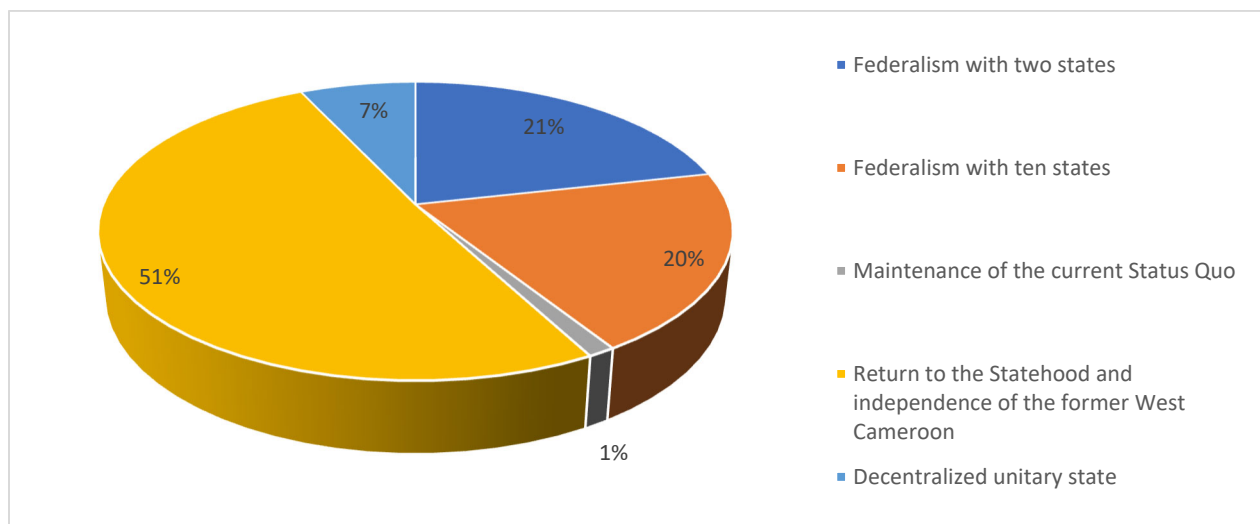
Source: Online survey administered by CPI

**Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by country and region of residence**



Source: Online Survey administered by CPI

**Figure 3: Preferred form of State**



Source: Online survey administered by CPI

#### **4. Preliminary lessons from this Survey**

Based on the results obtained, there is a clear division among Cameroonians of English-speaking extraction over the question of which form of state they want to live in.

The respondents consist mainly of Anglophone Cameroonians residing in urban areas, in the country and Anglophone Cameroonians in the diaspora. 76% of them are men and 24% are women. 51% of the respondents advocate for separation and 41% for federalism of some form.

#### **5. Conclusions and the way forward.**

CPI believes that resolving the Anglophone crisis requires the collective efforts of a critical mass of Cameroonian citizens who agree that the current form of the state is not sustainable. CPI intends to identify a critical mass of Cameroonians drawn across the country and beyond that are willing to join forces through formal and informal groupings to discuss and chart a way forward for genuine peace in the country. Invitations will be extended to qualified individuals from a wide-ranging background, including government, armed separatist groups, civil society, diplomatic community who are interested to contribute to restore peace in Cameroon. Regarding the way forward, CPI plans to undertake the following activities:

- A. Share the results with key crisis stakeholders and well-wishers (institutions and individuals).
- B. Convene key stakeholders in the crisis and with well-wishers to a conversation that we want to be honest and constructive.
- C. Update the CPI report on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon.
- D. Submit the report's recommendations officially to authorities in Cameroon.

- E. Host, along with the US Institute of Peace, peace seminars in the US and Cameroon.
- F. Set up a Cameroon Peace Plan Monitoring Committee and chronogram.