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# Communication and Collective Memory

The Perception of Political Repressions  
among Young Russians

#incommhse

# Why?

**2017** was a year  
of **anniversaries**  
in Russian history

- **100** years since **the Bolshevik Revolution**
- **80** years since **the Red Terror**

**ФОНД  
ПАМЯТИ**

**Музей  
истории  
ГУЛАГа**





# The Wall of Grief

A **monument** in Moscow to the victims of political persecution by Joseph Stalin during the country's Soviet era

Designed by **Georgy Frangulyan**

# Introduction



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• **June 2017**

**When?**

**Who?**

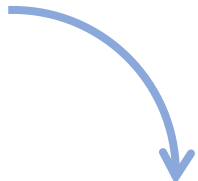

- the Student Agency of the School of Integrated Communications
- the Laboratory for Political Science at HSE
- the Memory Fund and the GULAG History Museum

• **Online-based** research

• **884** students, who were informed about repressions in USSR in the 20th century

**How?**

# Problems & limitations

- Some universities being **afraid** of the involvement might **affect their image**  

- In this case **quote sampling** would be **difficult**
- The participation **only** of those students who mentioned that they were **informed** about the period of **political repressions** in Russia
- Only **BA and MA students** could participate in the survey, PhD students were not allowed  

- **1035** responses were obtained, **884** were chosen





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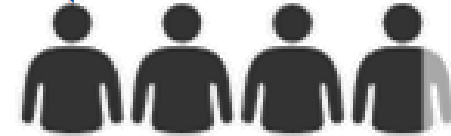
# The Preservation of memory



Were any of your relatives  
under repressions in Soviet  
period?

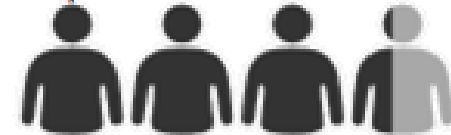
37%

No



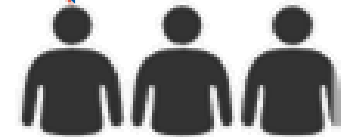
34%

Yes



29%

Not sure

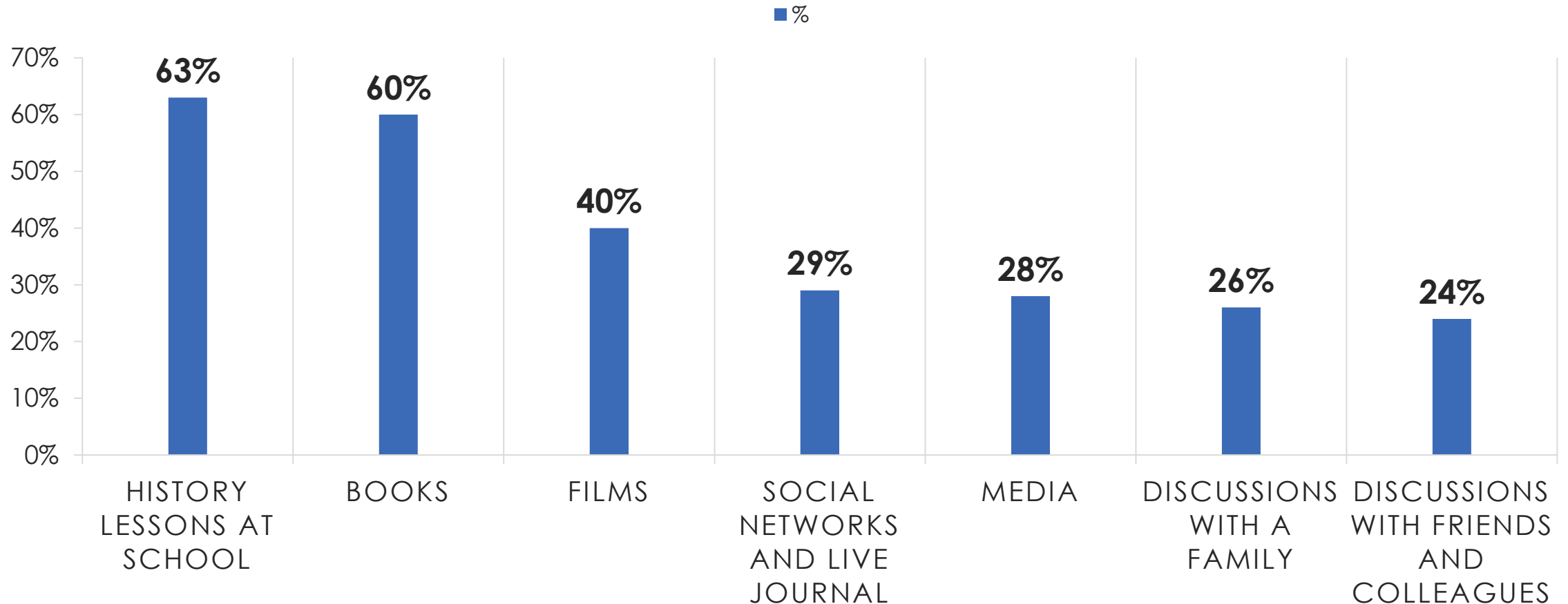




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# Sources of information

WHERE THE INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL REPRESSION  
COMES FROM?

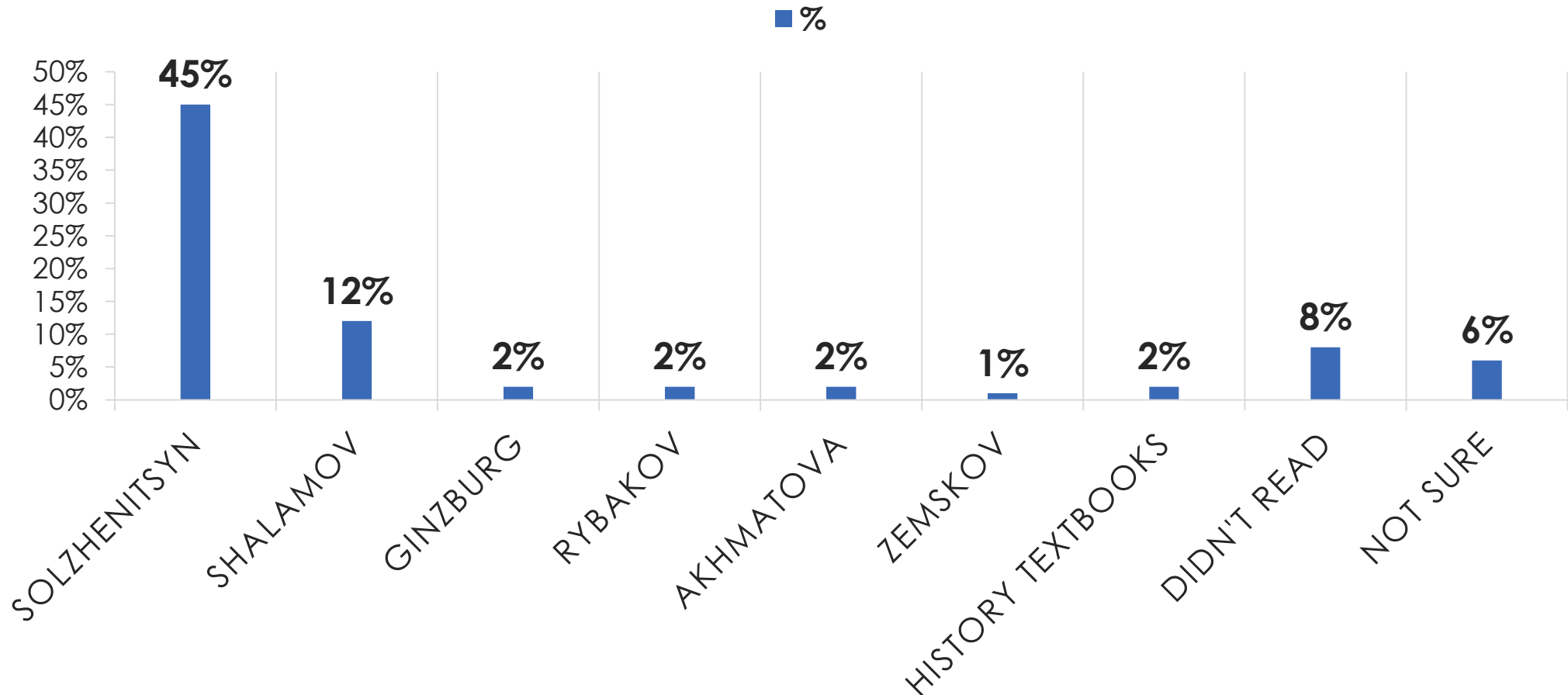




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# Sources of information

WHICH BOOKS/AUTHORS ABOUT POLITICAL REPRESSIONS  
HAVE YOU READ?



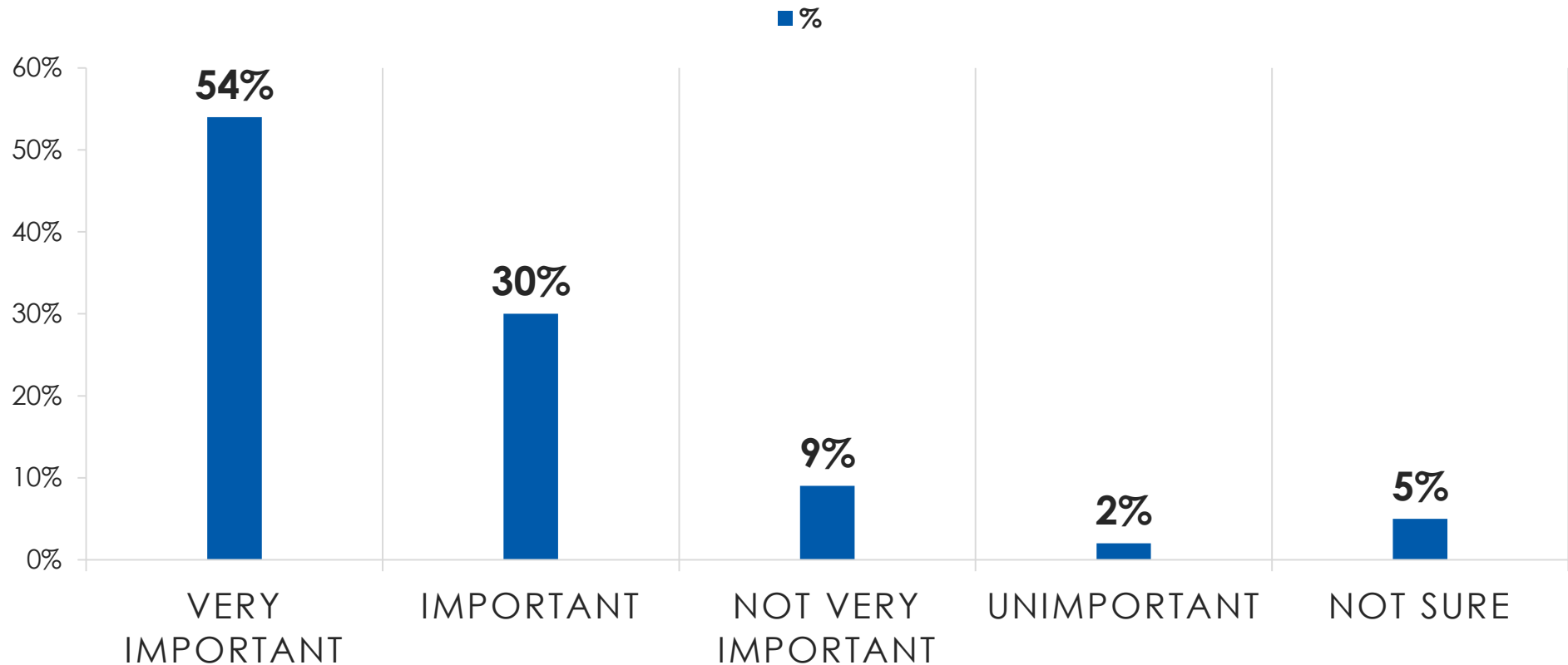




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# Highlighting the issue in mass media

IS IT IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUNG  
PEOPLE ABOUT POLITICAL REPRESSIONS?



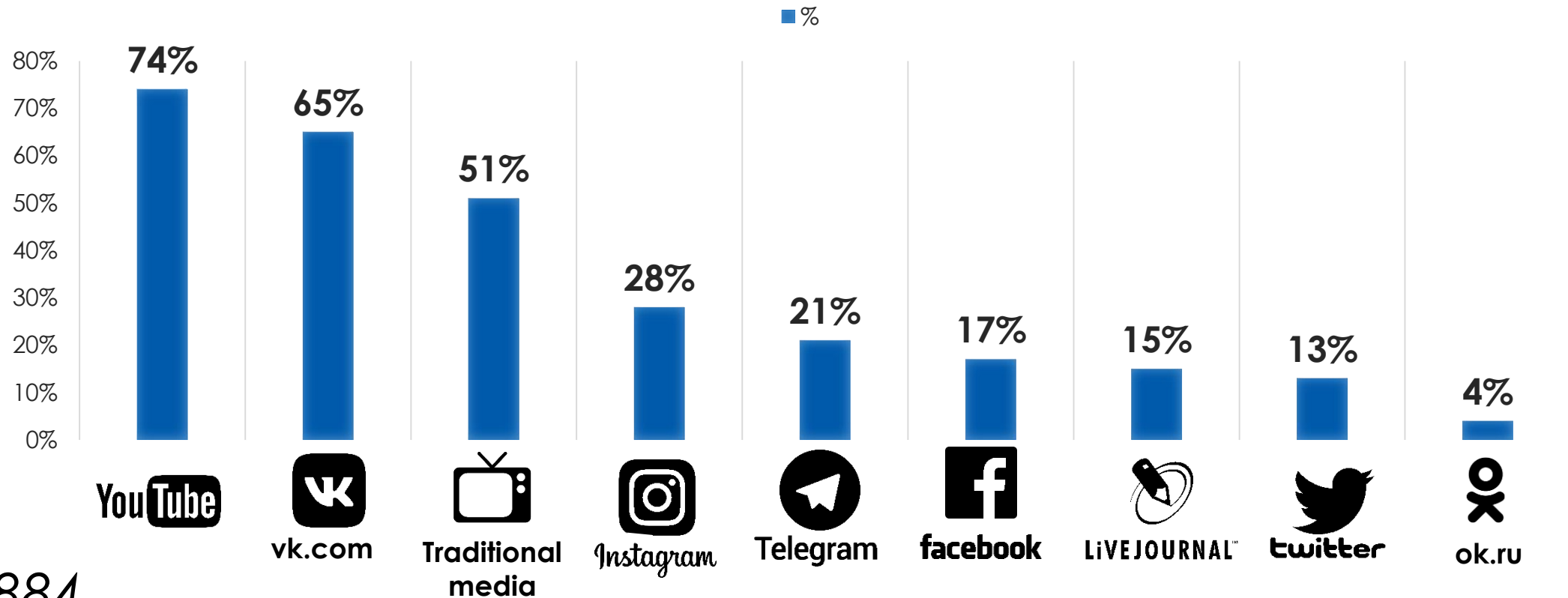
*N=884*



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# Highlighting the issue in mass media

WHICH CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE  
SHOULD BE USED BY THE STATE FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE  
TOPIC OF POLITICAL REPRESSION?



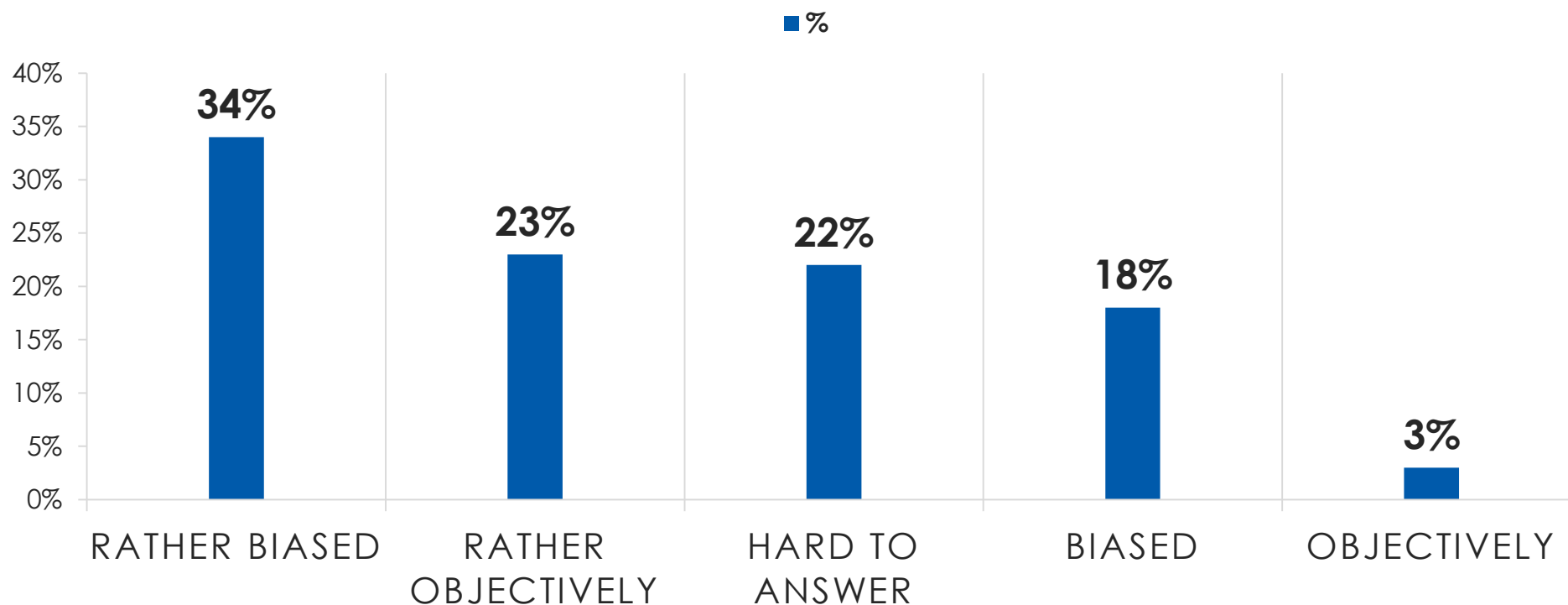
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# Highlighting the issue in mass media

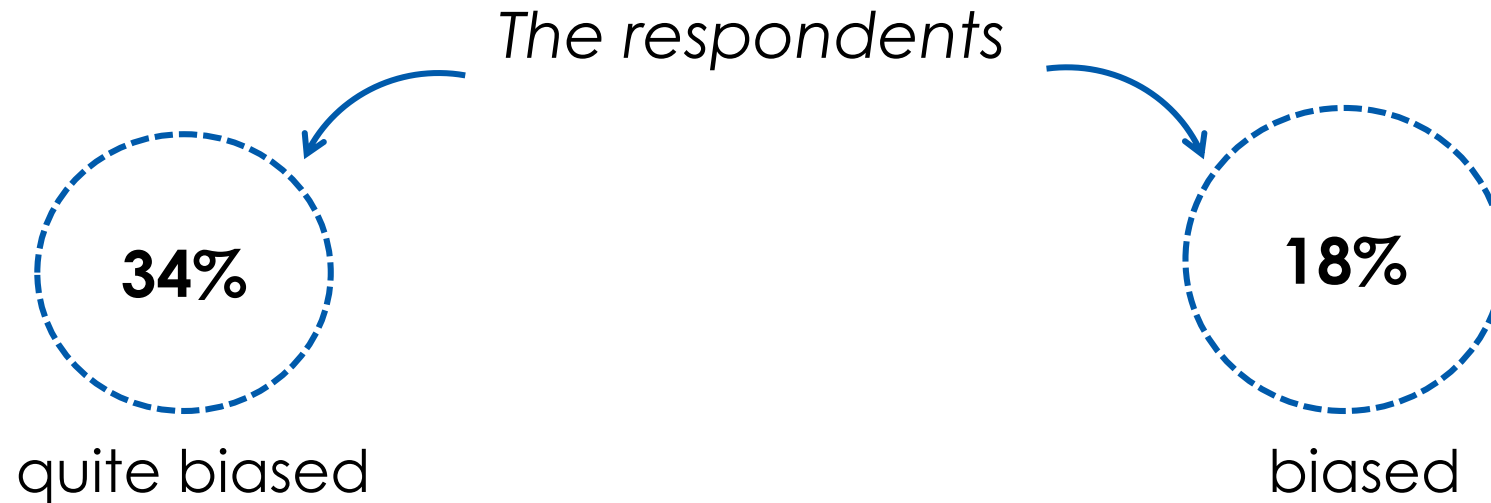
HOW OBJECTIVE IS THE SUBJECT OF POLITICAL  
REPRESSIONS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY IN THE OFFICIAL  
MEDIA?





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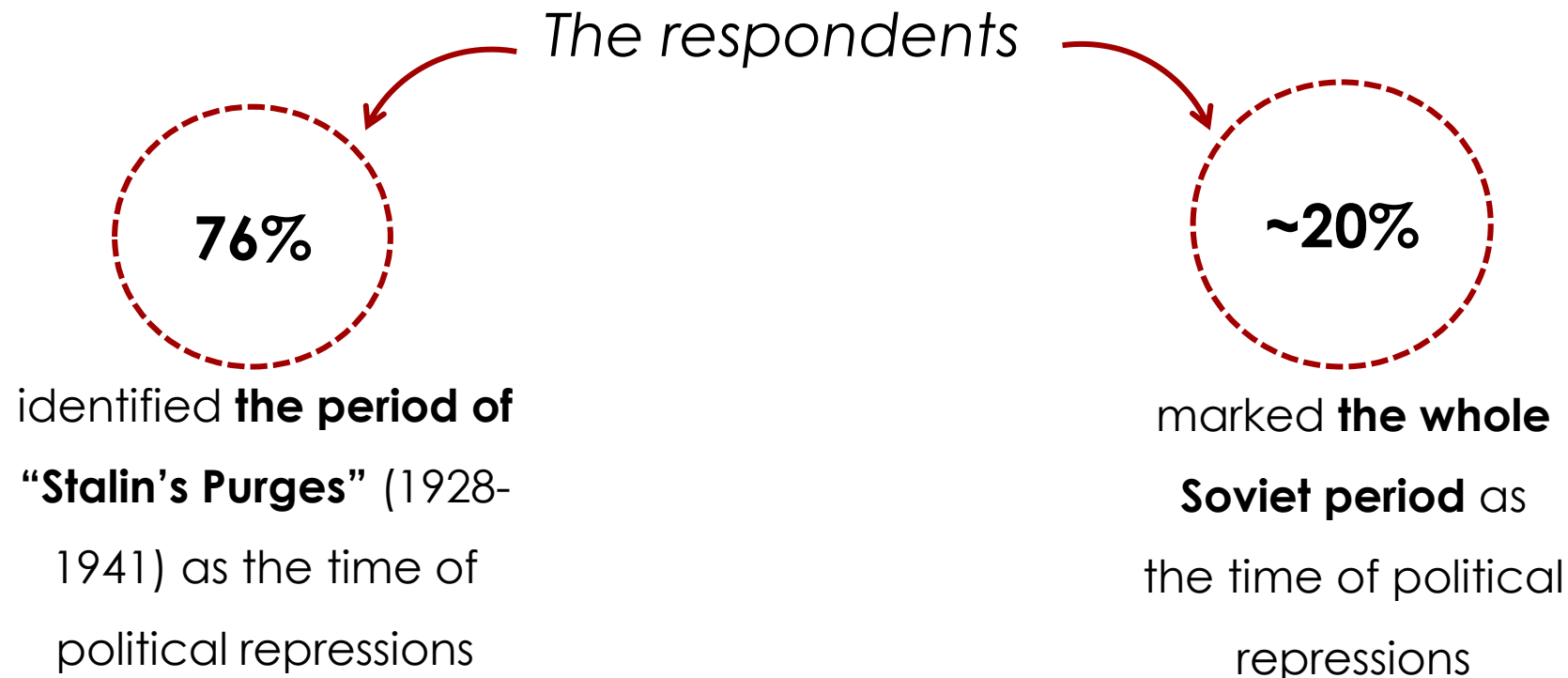
# Highlighting the issue in mass media



“ ”

There is **not enough information** and new channels of **communication** between the state and the younger generations **should be developed**

# “The repressions were Stalin’s personal responsibility”



! Most respondents think that repressions may happen once again and repeat in our history in the nearest future !

# The Preservation of memory

71%

the culture of  
memory should be  
developed  
particularly in  
**building memorials**  
**to the victims** of  
political repressions

21%

Not sure,  
**do not have a**  
**clear position**  
about the  
necessity of  
building such  
memorials

8%

Not important

**!44%**

**not ready to**  
**support** those  
projects with  
money



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So what?

# The Preservation of memory



A series of **open literature evenings** in memory of victims of political repression with the **invited actors and writers**



**Broadcast** on Facebook and YouTube



The best project in the “Charity” nomination at **Silver Archer AWARDS**



# Open literature evenings



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# The Wall of Grief

Program of memorializing victims of Soviet repression



**Garden Ring Road**, Moscow, Russian Federation



**Installation time:**  
August – September, 2017



**460 million rubles**  
(7 479,02 USD)

**300 million rubles** allocated from the **Moscow city budget**

**160 million rubles** were collected by the **Memory Fund**

# Contact information

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