

# Inequalities around the globe: what the world sees as most serious

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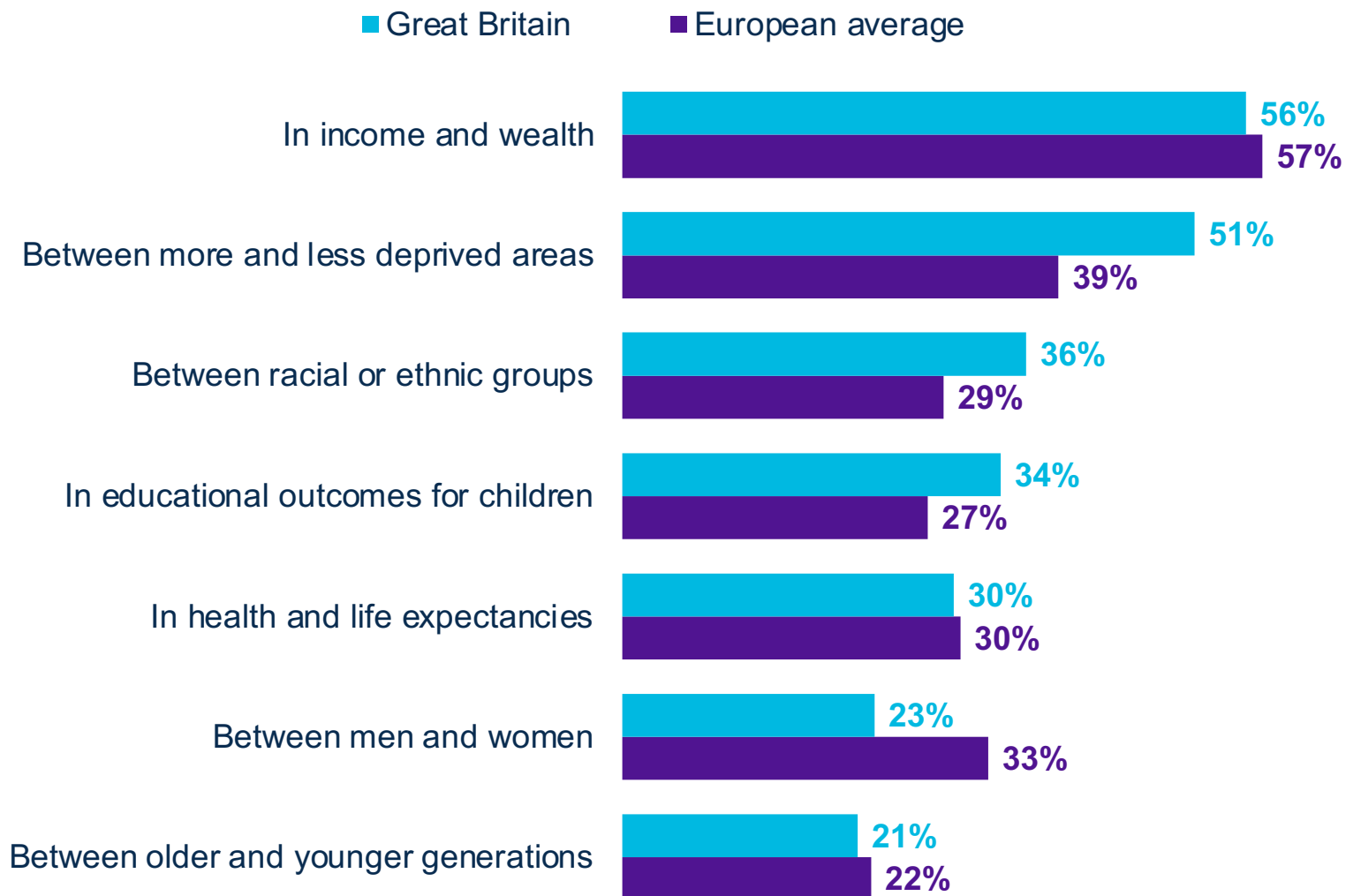
**Which types of inequality do  
Britons see as most serious?**

The background of the slide features a solid purple-to-blue gradient. Overlaid on this are several abstract, flowing, wavy lines in a light blue color. These lines originate from the right side of the frame and sweep across towards the left, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines are composed of many closely spaced, slightly curved segments, giving them a liquid or smoke-like appearance.

Along with disparities in income and wealth (56%), Britons are particularly concerned about inequalities between more and less deprived areas (51%). Their concern about these place-based inequalities is significantly higher than the European average (39%).

Other concerns are seen as relatively less serious and are more in line with opinion across Europe – aside from when it comes to gender inequality, which is viewed as a pressing problem by a greater proportion of Europeans (33%) than Britons (23%).

### Which three or four of the following types of inequality, if any, do you think are most serious in [country]?

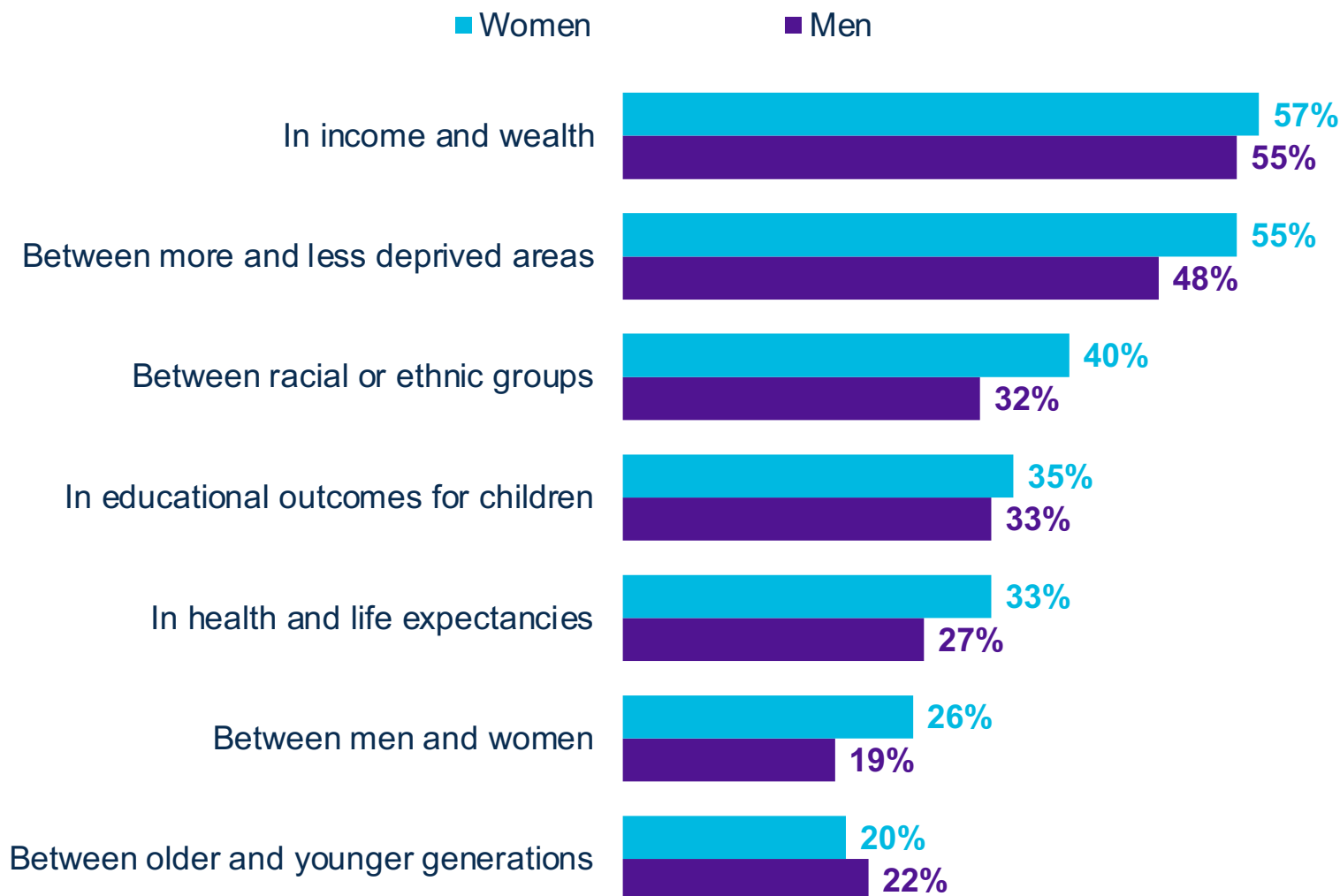


Women tend to be slightly more concerned than men about various types of inequalities in Britain.

For example, women are more likely (55%) than men (48%) to see place-based inequalities as particularly serious.

And 40% of women say racial and ethnic inequalities are among the most serious types of inequality in the country, compared with 32% of men who say the same.

### Which three or four of the following types of inequality, if any, do you think are most serious in Britain?

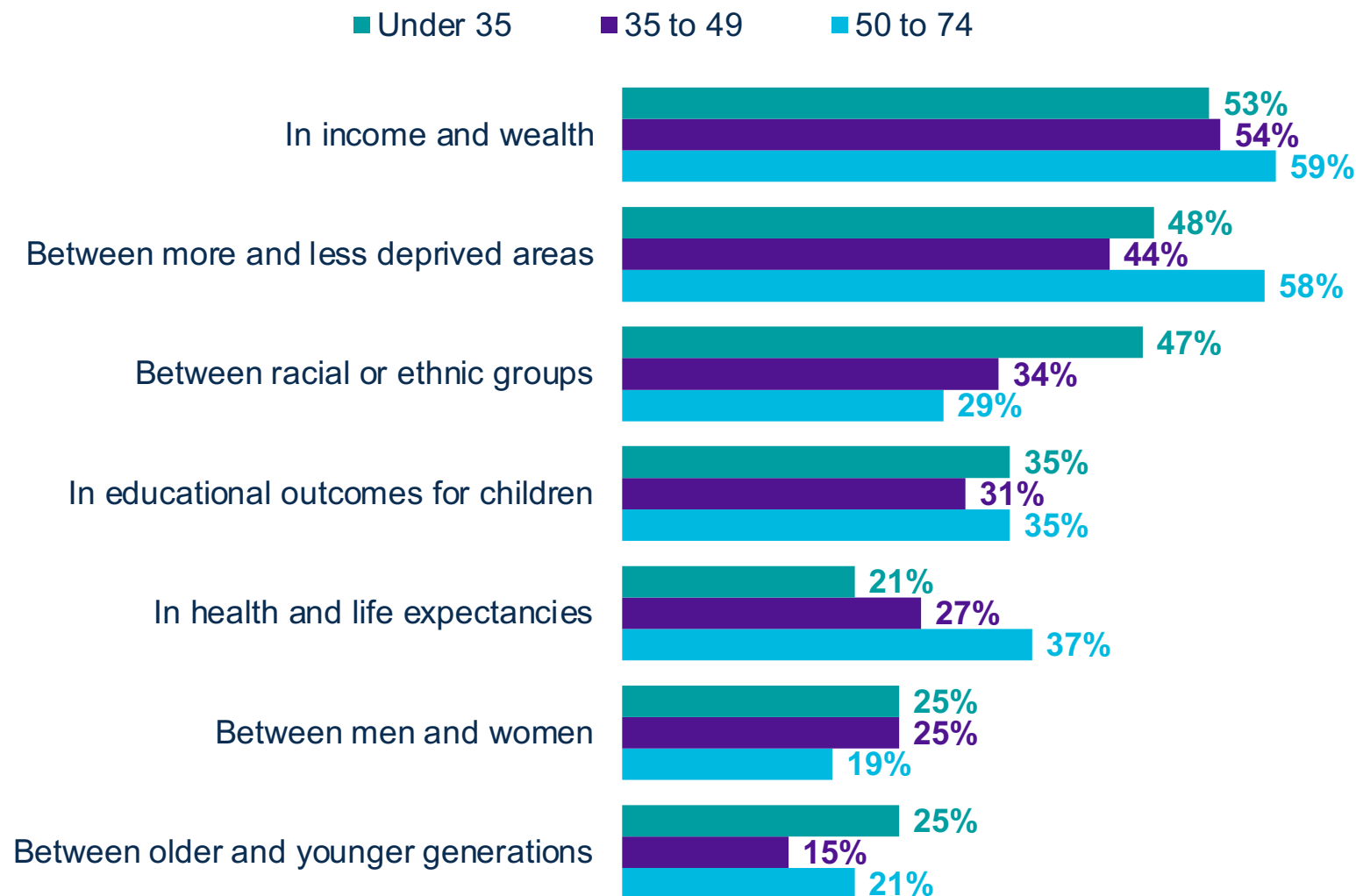




Concern about place-based inequalities is highest among those aged 50 to 74. 58% of this group say such inequalities are particularly serious in Britain, compared with 48% of under-35s who say the same.

Older people are also more concerned about disparities in health and life expectancies, while younger people are by far the most likely to be concerned about racial and ethnic inequalities. Almost half – 47% – of under-35s say such inequalities are among the most serious in Britain, much greater than the 34% of 35-49-year-olds and 29% of 50-74-year-olds who agree.

## Which three or four of the following types of inequality, if any, do you think are most serious in Britain?



1,000 adults aged 18-74 interviewed online between 23 Dec 2020 and 8 Jan 2021

# **Where Britain ranks globally on concern about different types of inequality**

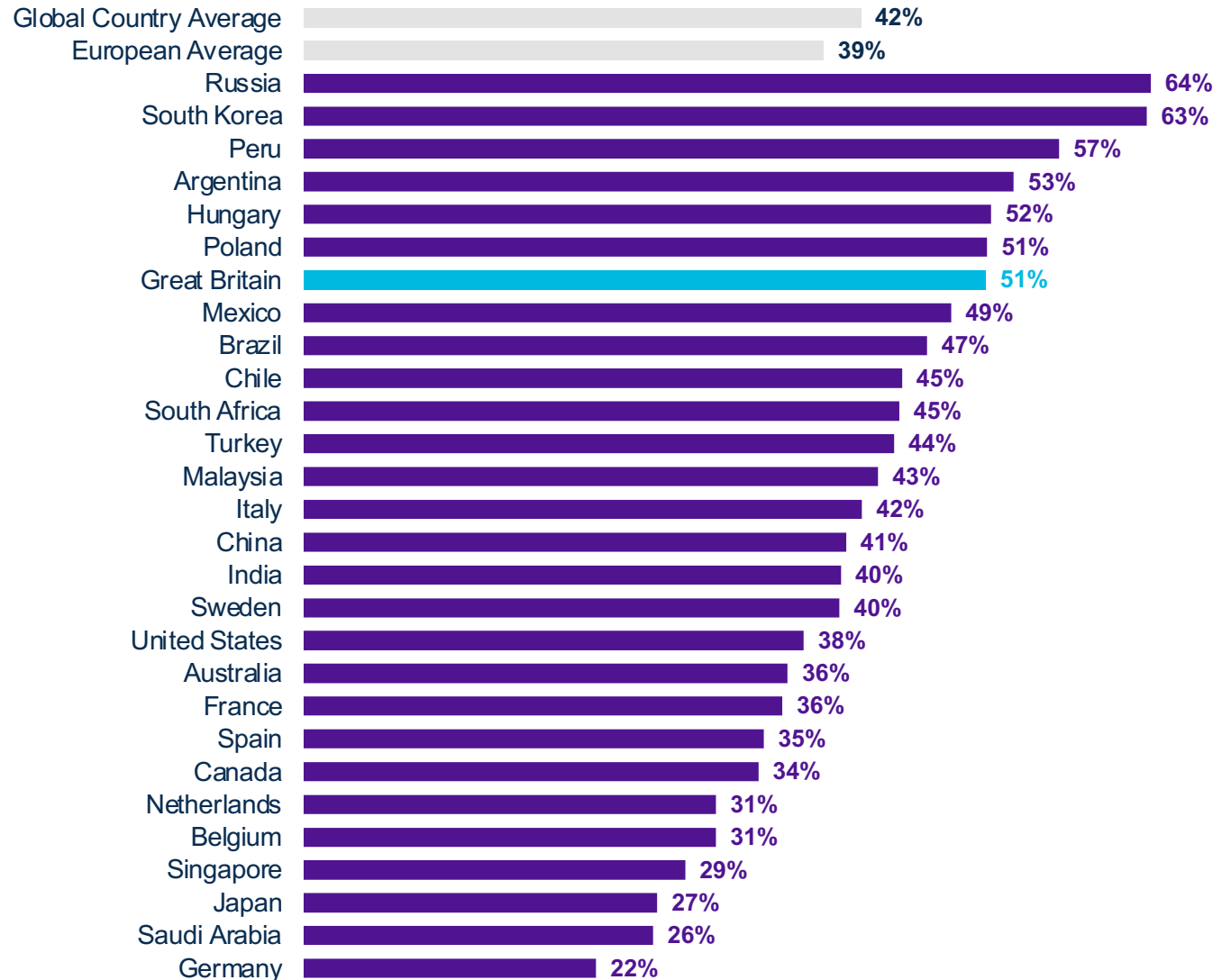
The background of the slide features a solid purple-to-blue gradient. Overlaid on this are several abstract, wavy, light blue lines that create a sense of movement and depth, resembling stylized waves or flowing ribbons. These lines are more prominent on the right side of the image, framing the text area.

Among Western European countries, Britain (51%) comes far out on top for concern about place-based inequalities.

And among G8 nations, only Russia (64%) ranks higher than Britain in seeing this issue as a serious problem.

Germans (22%) are least concerned about this kind of inequality in their country, and are less than half as likely as Britons to see it as serious.

% who say **inequalities between more and less deprived areas** are one of the three or four most serious types of inequality in their country





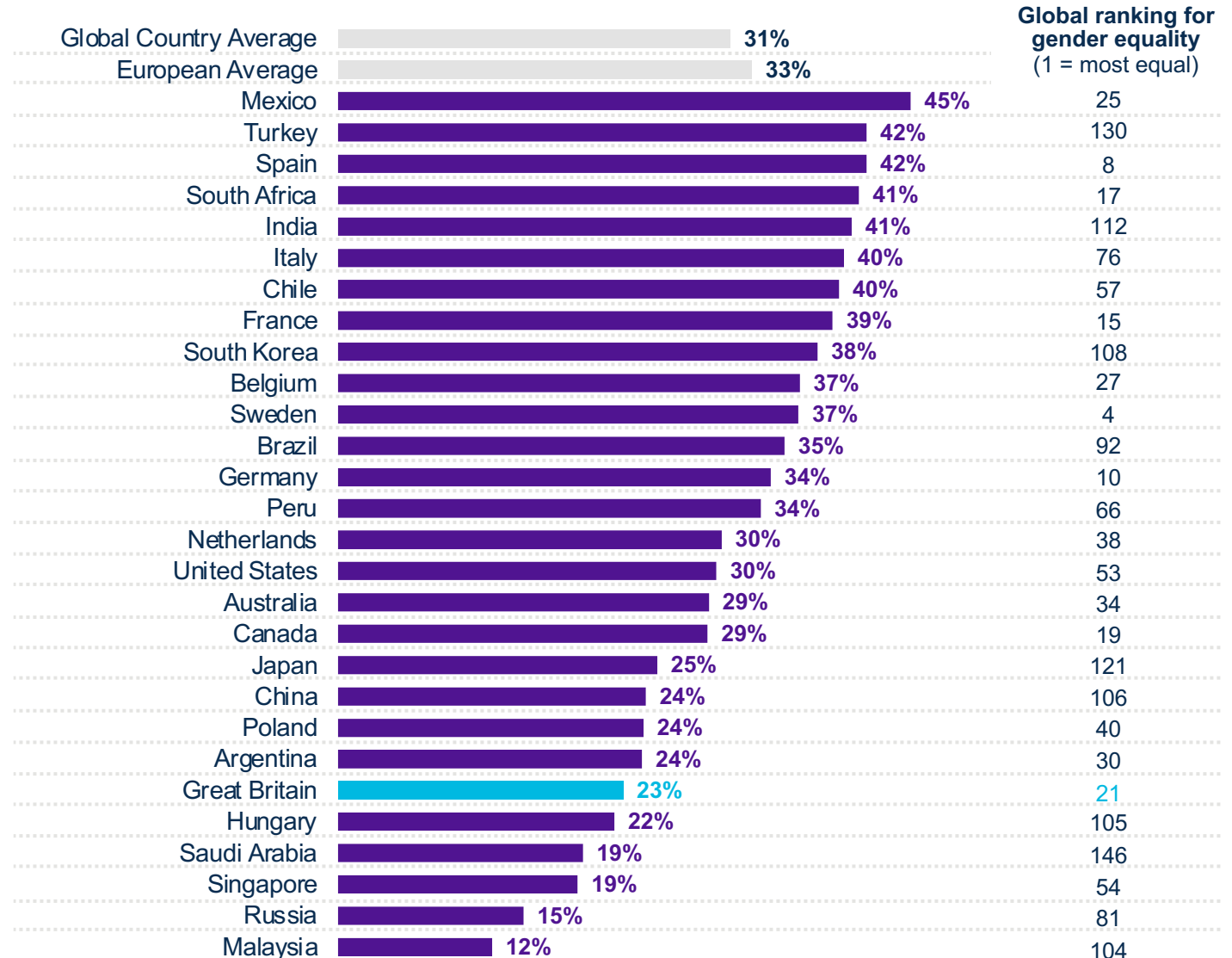
Britain ranks 21st in the world for gender equality, and people in Britain are among the least concerned about inequality between men and women, with 23% saying it is one of the most serious forms of inequality in the country.

Other, similar nations that rank higher on objective measures of gender equality actually have greater levels of concern about this issue.

For example, 42% of people in Spain say it is a concern, despite their country ranking 8th in the world for equality between men and women. And 37% of Swedes say the same – even though they rank 4th.

Overall, concern about gender inequality is unrelated to a nation's actual performance on this issue – hence just 19% of people in Saudi Arabia see this as a particularly serious issue there, despite the country being ranked 146th globally.

## % who say **inequalities between men and women** are one of the three or four most serious types of inequality in their country



23,004 adults interviewed online between 23 Dec 2020 and 8 Jan 2021

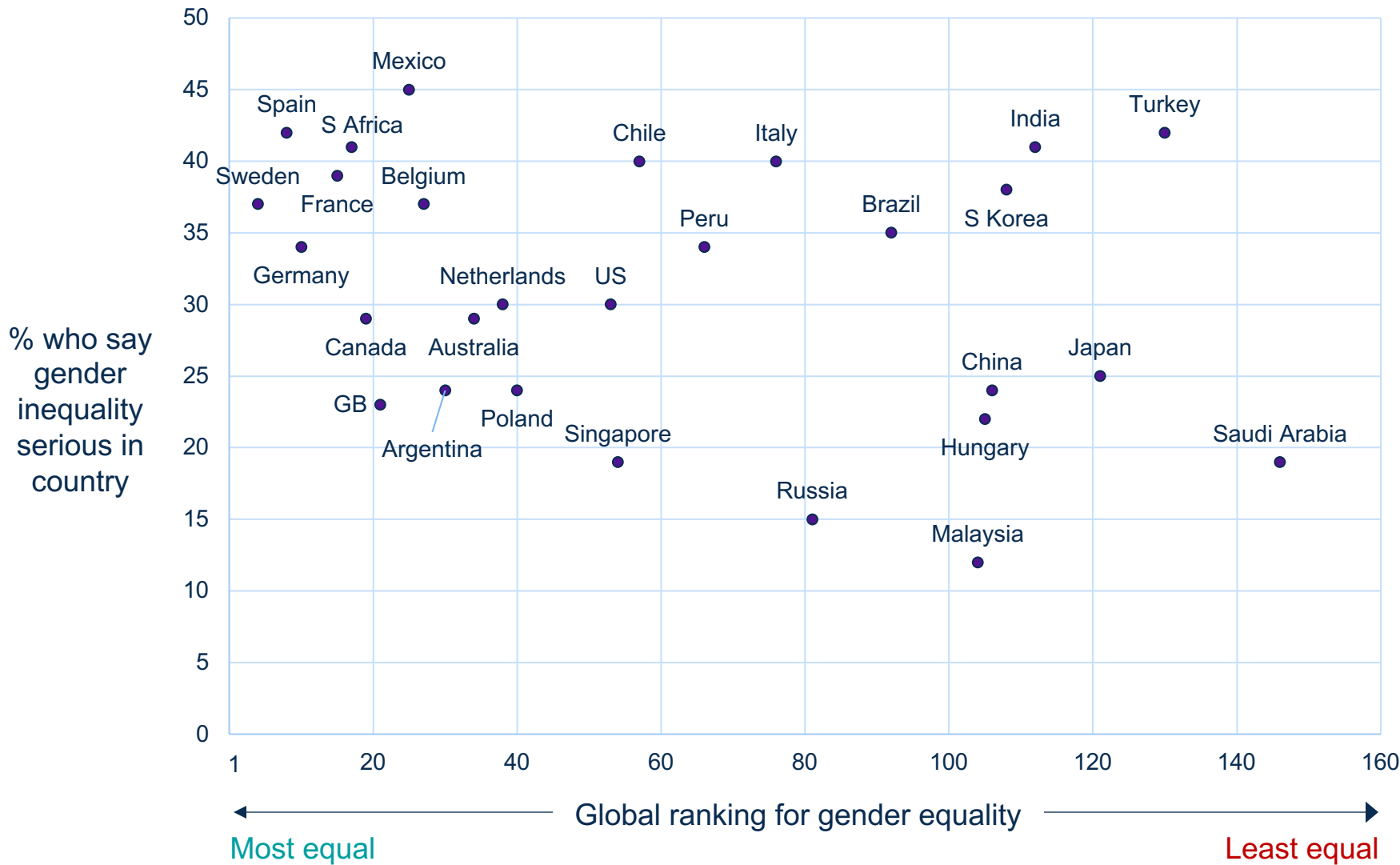


Even though some countries – such as Spain, Sweden, France and Germany – rank highly on objective measures of gender equality, they still have greater levels of concern about this issue than other nations that fare much worse on this type of inequality – such as Russia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

And Britain has relatively low levels of concern, even though it is ranked relatively highly for gender equality.

By contrast, Turkey is ranked 130<sup>th</sup> for equality between men and women – one of the worst countries in the world by this measure – yet people there are among the most concerned about this issue.

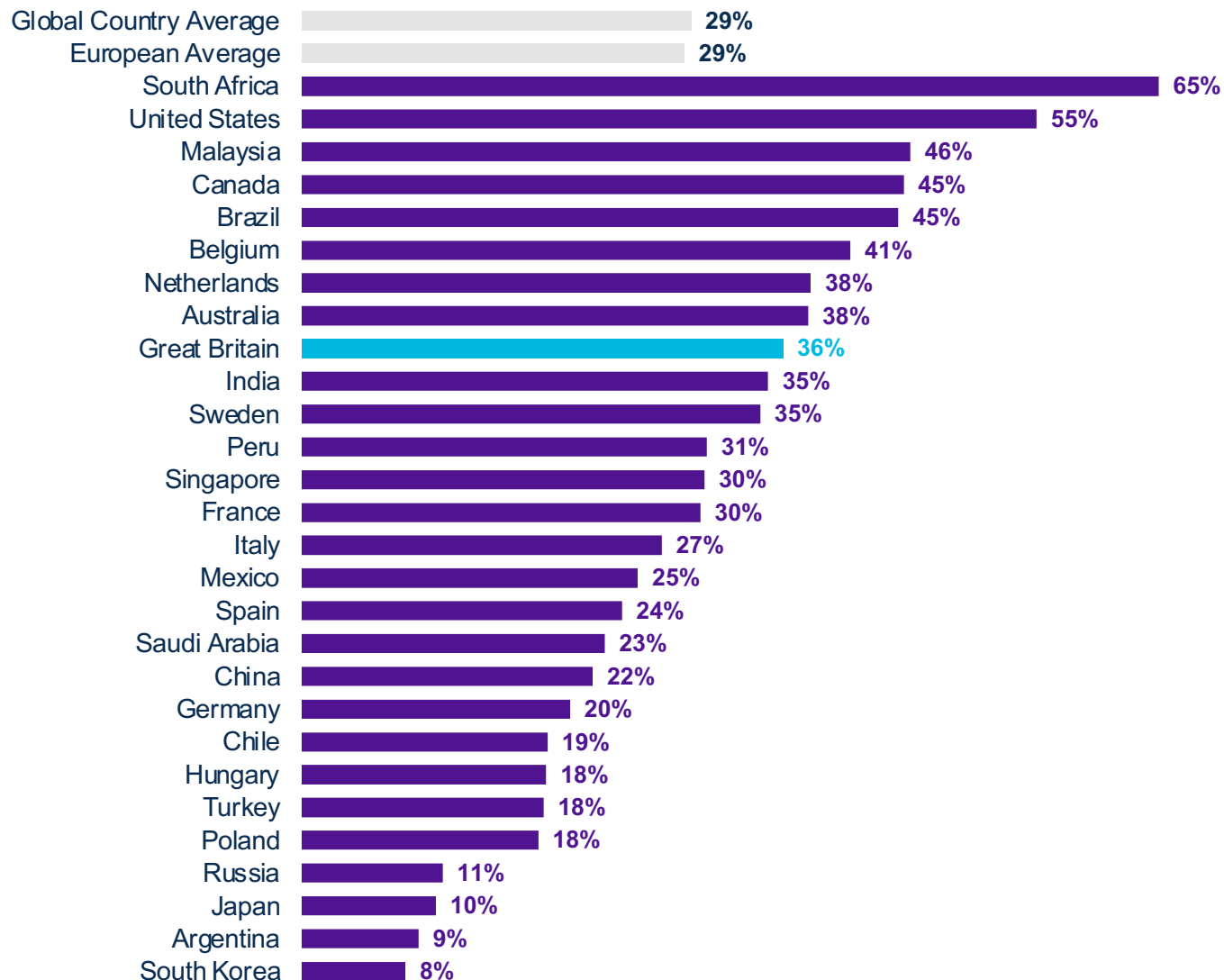
Countries’ ranking for gender equality vs % who say gender inequality is one of the most serious types of inequality in their country



55% of Americans consider ethnic inequalities to be among the most serious forms of inequality in the US – the highest of any developed country surveyed and lower only than South Africa, on 65%.

In Britain, disparities between ethnic groups (36%) are seen as the third most concerning form of inequality – behind income inequality and inequality between better-off and deprived areas – and the country ranks in the top half of those surveyed for concern about this issue.

% who say **inequalities between racial or ethnic groups** are one of the three or four most serious types of inequality in their country

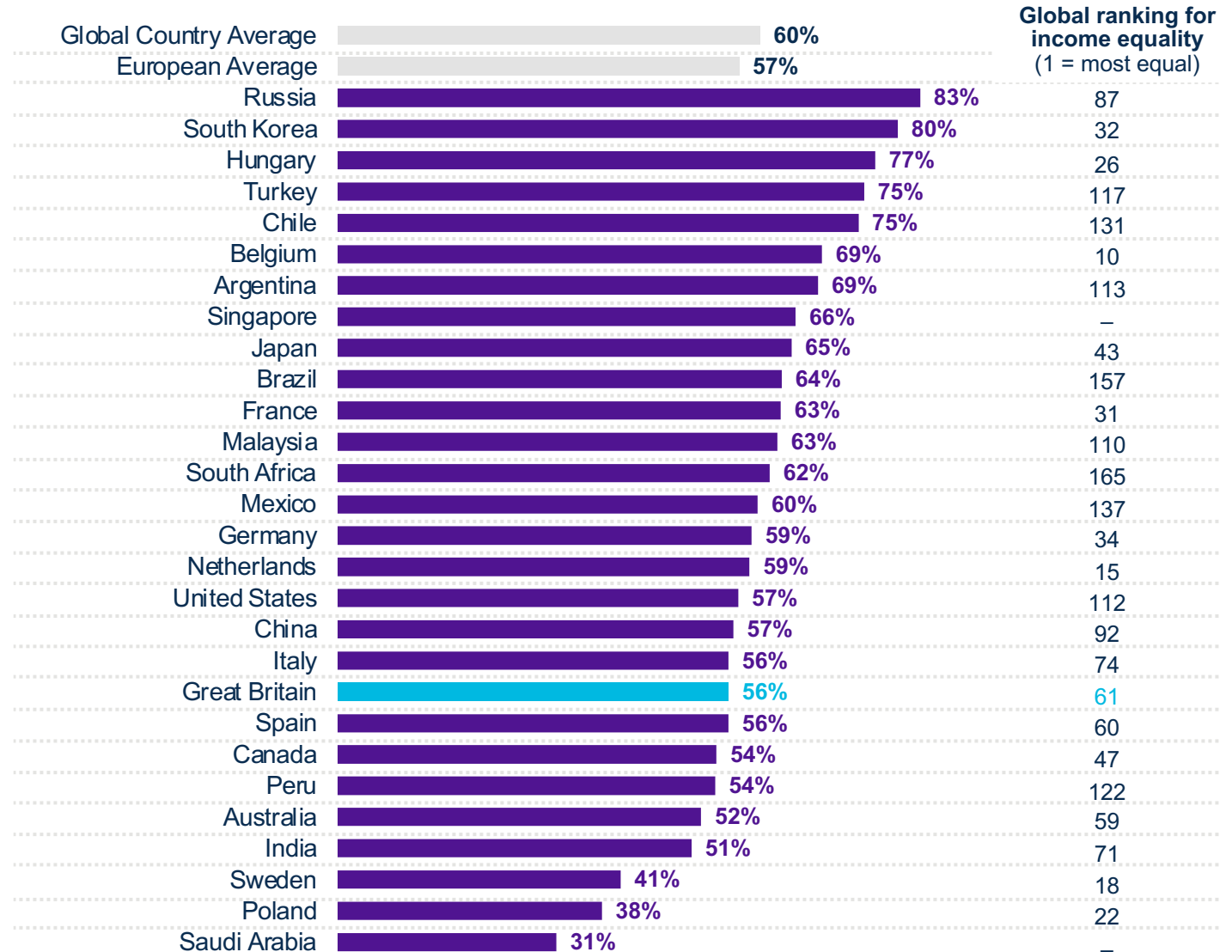


56% of people in Britain think disparities in income are a particularly serious form of inequality in their country, making it one of the nations least concerned about this issue. But concern in Britain is in line with the European average (57%), and is similar to other Western countries, such as Spain (56%), the US (57%) and Germany (59%).

South Africa is considered the worst country for income equality by the World Bank – but concern about the issue barely exceeds the global average (62% vs 60%).

By contrast, Belgium is ranked 10th for income equality globally, yet concern is relatively high there, with 69% seeing it as a serious issue – significantly higher than the European average.

## % who say **income inequality** is one of the three or four most serious types of inequality in their country





There's no overall relationship between actual inequality and how serious a problem it's seen to be.

Sweden ranks highly on objective measures of income equality. In line with this, people there have comparatively lower levels of concern about this issue.

Belgium and the Netherlands, on the other hand, rank even higher for income equality, yet those countries are much more likely to be worried about disparities in income, underscoring that how serious people perceive this type of inequality to be seems unrelated to actual performance on this issue.

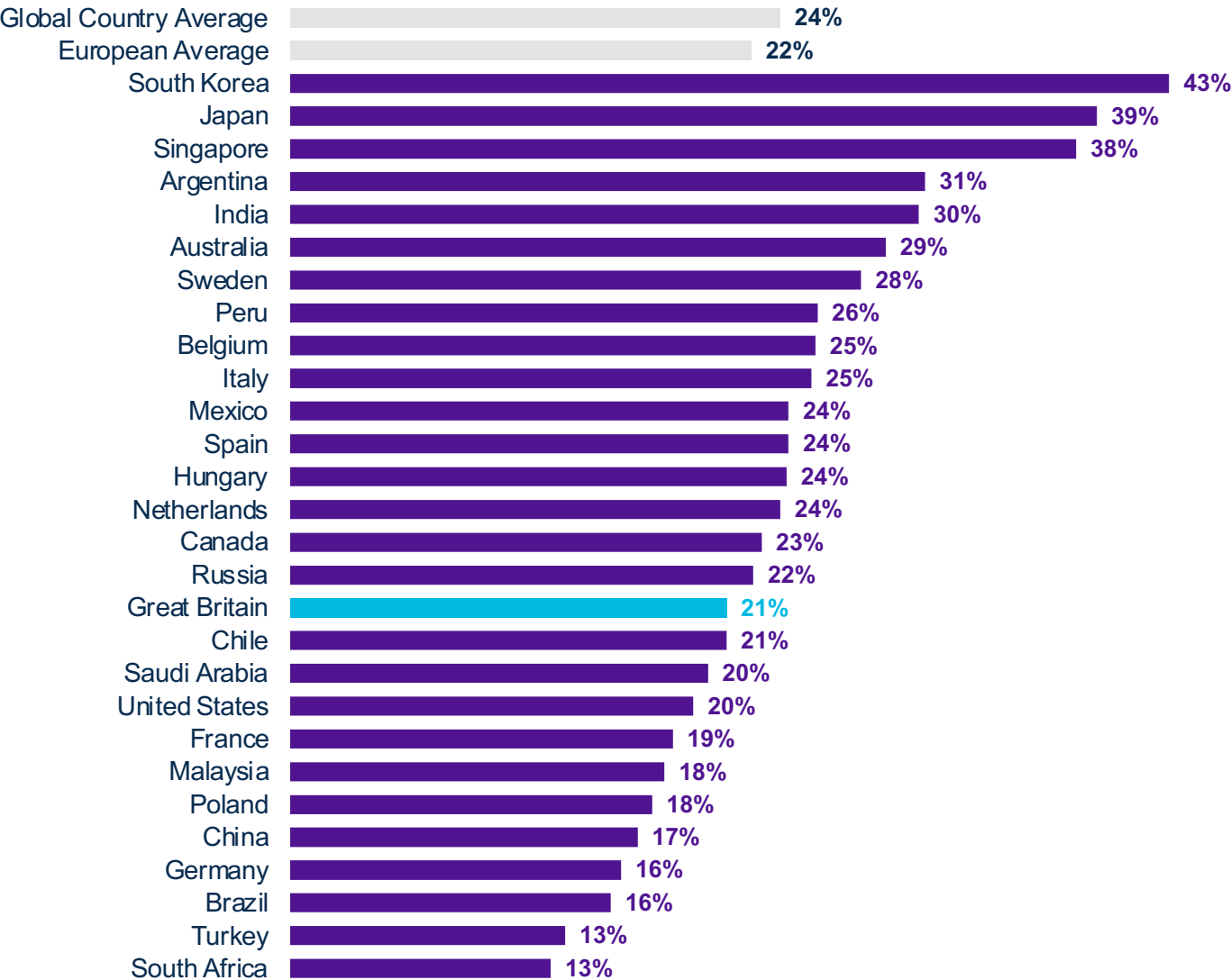
This dynamic can also be seen with the US and South Africa – two countries which in reality fare very poorly on measures of income equality but nonetheless have relatively low levels of concern about it.

**Selected countries' ranking for income equality vs % who say income inequality is one of the most serious types of inequality in their country**



South Korea (43%), Japan (39%) and Singapore (38%) come top for concern about generational inequality in their countries. Levels of concern there are around twice as high as they are in Britain (21%).

% who say **inequalities between older generations and younger generations** are one of the three or four most serious types of inequality in their country

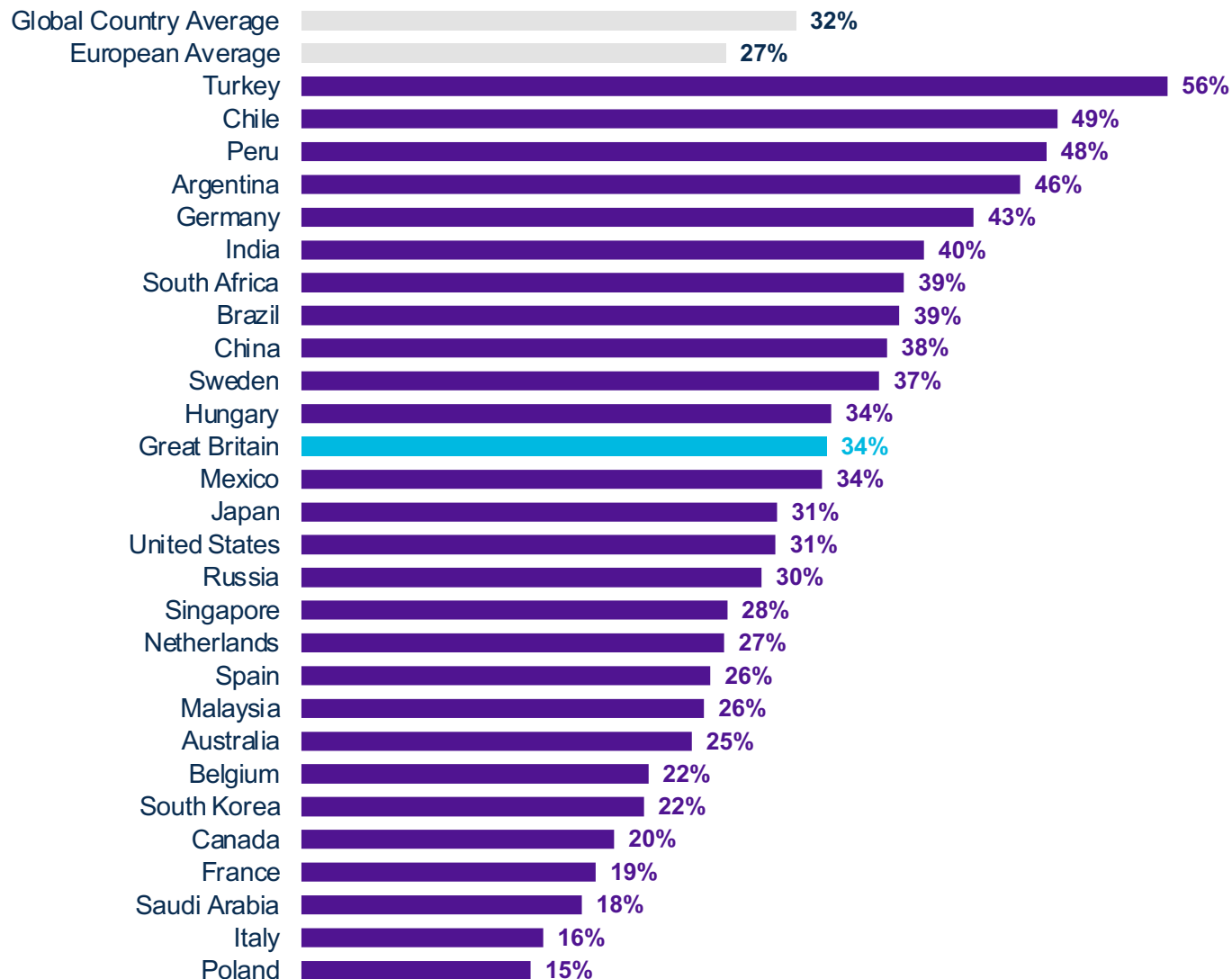


23,004 adults interviewed online between 23 Dec 2020 and 8 Jan 2021

Around a third of Britons (34%) say educational inequality is particularly concerning in their country – roughly the same as the global average (32%), but higher than several similar European nations, such as Spain (26%) and France (19%).

People in Turkey (56%) are most likely to think this kind of inequality is among the most serious in their country, closely followed by those from a group of South American nations.

% who say **inequalities in educational outcomes for children** are one of the three or four most serious types of inequality in their country

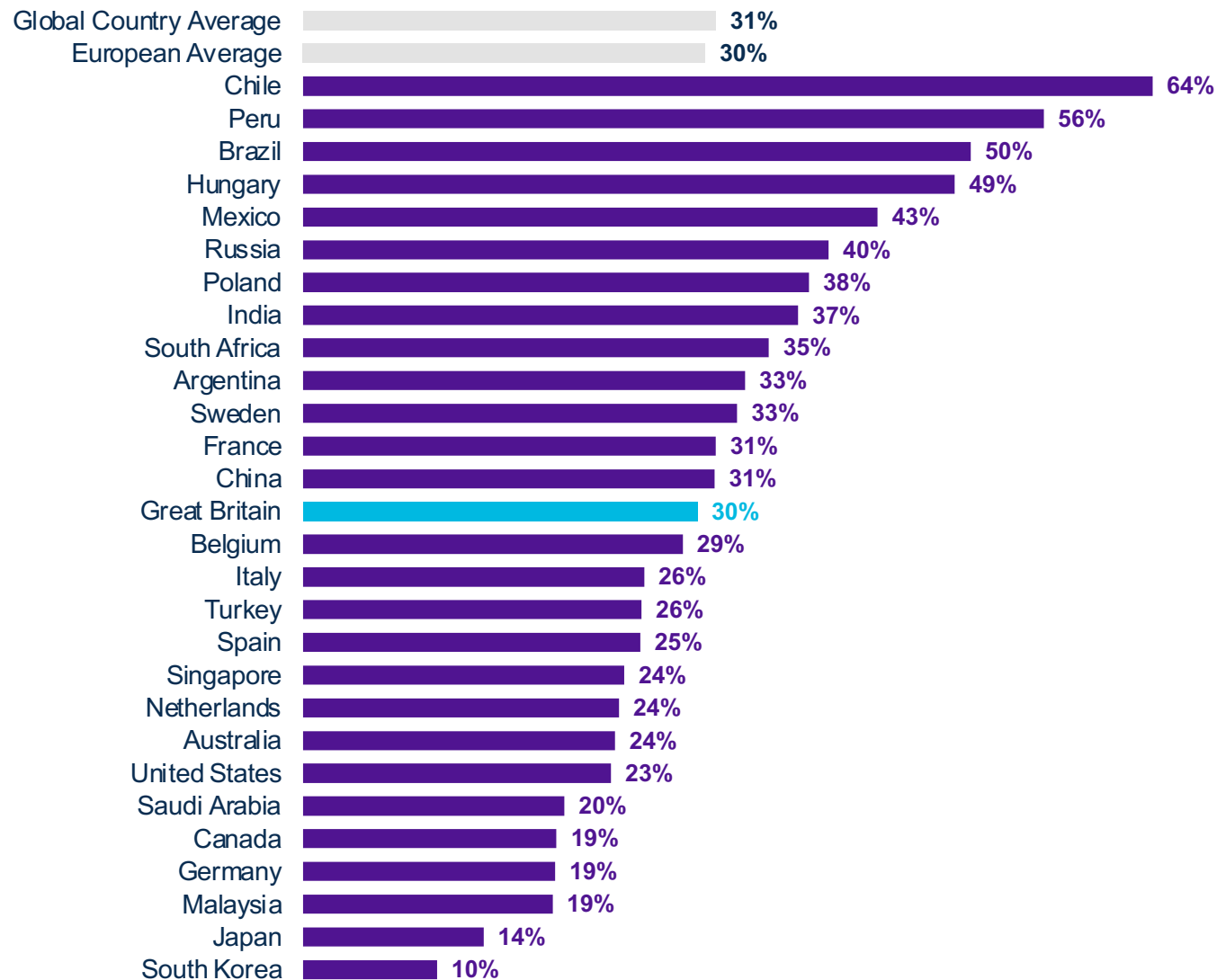




Of all nations surveyed, people in Chile (64%) are most likely to say health disparities are an especially problematic form of inequality in their country.

By comparison, people in Britain (30%) are less than half as likely to cite such inequalities as a serious problem.

**% who say *inequalities in health and life expectancies* are one of the three or four most serious types of inequality in their country**



23,004 adults interviewed online between 23 Dec 2020 and 8 Jan 2021

# Technical details

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These are the results of a 28-market survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform. Ipsos interviewed a total of 23,004 adults aged 18-74 in Singapore, 18-74 in the United States, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa and Turkey, 21-74 in Singapore and 16-74 in 22 other markets between 23 December 2020 and 8 January 2021.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals in each of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, mainland China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain and the U.S., and 500 individuals in each of Argentina, Chile, Hungary, India, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, and Turkey.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the U.S. can be taken as representative of their general adult population under the age of 75.

The samples in Brazil, Chile, mainland China, India, Israel, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these markets should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of their population.

The data is weighted so that each country’s sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

“The Global Country Average” reflects the average result for all the countries where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country and is not intended to suggest a total result.

Where results do not sum to 100 or the ‘difference’ appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of “don’t know” or not stated responses.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos’ use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website. The publication of these findings abides by local rules and regulations.

Sources for rankings:

Slide 8 & 9: World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index 2020  
[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf)

Slide 11 & 12 : Gini index ranking  
[https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?most\\_recent\\_value\\_desc=true](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?most_recent_value_desc=true)

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