



# 2025 Annual MEMBER SURVEY

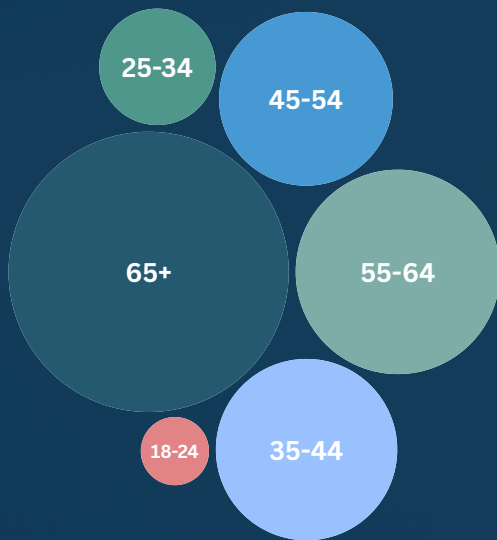


## Overview

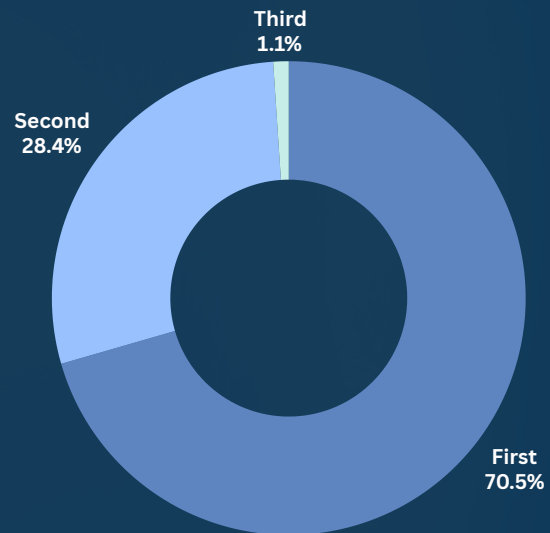
The policies and priorities of the National Iranian American Council have been determined by our volunteers and donors for more than two decades. This has given the organization its strength and helped guide its people-powered mission and voice from its founding to its present. The results of this survey will guide our work to serve our members and uphold our mission to build civic power for Iranian Americans and allies to advance peace and diplomacy, secure equitable immigration, and protect civil rights. This year NIAC received approximately 629 survey results; a summary of the results and our takeaways from this important survey follow.

### 629 SURVEY TAKERS

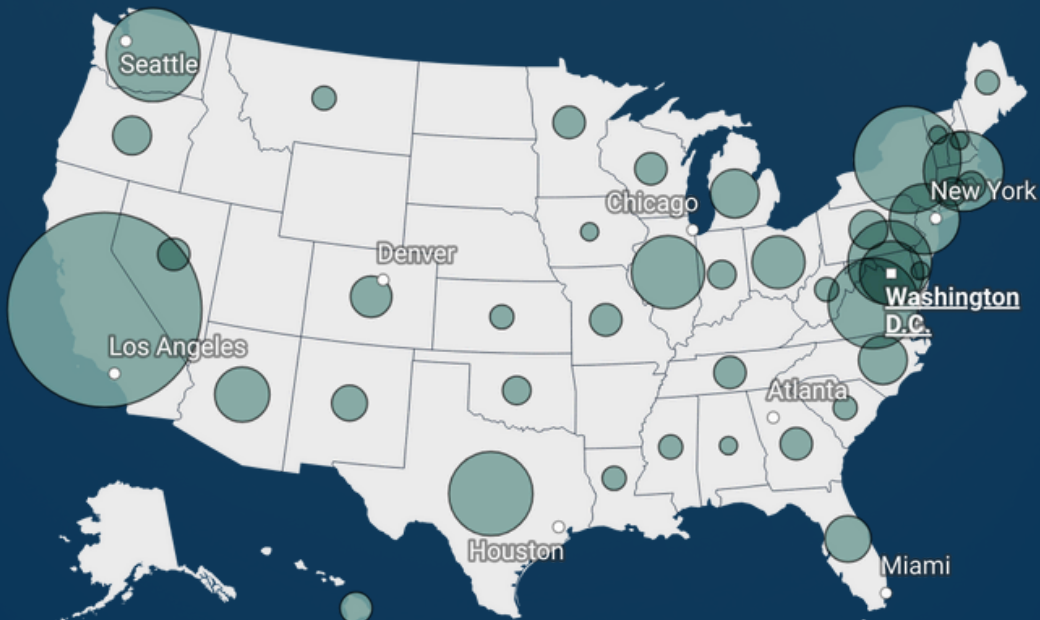
#### Ages Ranging from 18-95



#### 3 Generations of Iranian Americans



#### 42 States Represented



01.

## Top Priorities

- Respondents rank preventing war between the U.S. and Iran (#1) and relieving broad economic sanctions that hurt Iranians (#2) as their top priorities for NIAC. Advancing diplomacy between the U.S. and Iran (#3) remains a top priority, while securing a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine (#4) and defending the civil rights of Iranian Americans (#5) rounds out the top five.

02.

## Civil Rights Concerns Surge

- Members see civil rights as increasingly urgent and under threat, with 78.1% of members saying they are very concerned about threats to civil rights and immigration for Iranians—a 6.3% increase from 2024. 18.5% say they are “somewhat concerned,” while only 3.4% indicated they are “not concerned.”

03.

## Human Rights in Iran

- Nearly 71% say that NIAC has been focusing the right amount on human rights in Iran while 14.8% say we are not focusing enough and 14.5% say we are focusing too much.

04.

## Support for Diplomacy Increases

- 89.2% of respondents say NIAC should continue to support diplomacy and a potential agreement between the U.S. and Iran—an increase from 2024 (86%) and a significant increase from 2023 (66%). 7.8% say NIAC should adopt a more neutral stance, and only 3% say NIAC should abandon diplomacy altogether.

05.

## Shift on Sanctions

- 57.6% of respondents now say NIAC should oppose all sanctions—an increase of 10 percentage points from last year—while 39.7% say NIAC should continue to support targeted sanctions and oppose broad sanctions. This reflects a slight shift in sentiment from past years in which narrow majorities say NIAC should support targeted sanctions while opposing broad sanctions.
- In sum, 97.3% of members believe broad sanctions should be opposed while 2.7% of respondents say NIAC should support broad sanctions.

06.

## Approach to a Second Trump Term

- A majority of respondents (56.3%) say NIAC should “resist and assist”—engage the Trump administration to advance shared interests and oppose where there is disagreement.
- 31.5% say NIAC should oppose Trump’s policies broadly while 12.2% say NIAC should avoid opposing Trump in areas of disagreement and focus solely on advancing shared interests.

## Ranking Priorities

Please rank your top 5 priorities for NIAC Action this year, with 1 being the top priority:



***Our members overwhelmingly named preventing war between the U.S. and Iran as their top priority—nearly twice as important as the next priority.***

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Lifting broad economic sanctions that harm ordinary Iranians rose to second place, followed closely by support for a diplomatic agreement between the U.S. and Iran. Securing a lasting ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine conflict came in fourth. Defending the civil rights of Iranian Americans at home remained as fifth priority for the second year in a row.

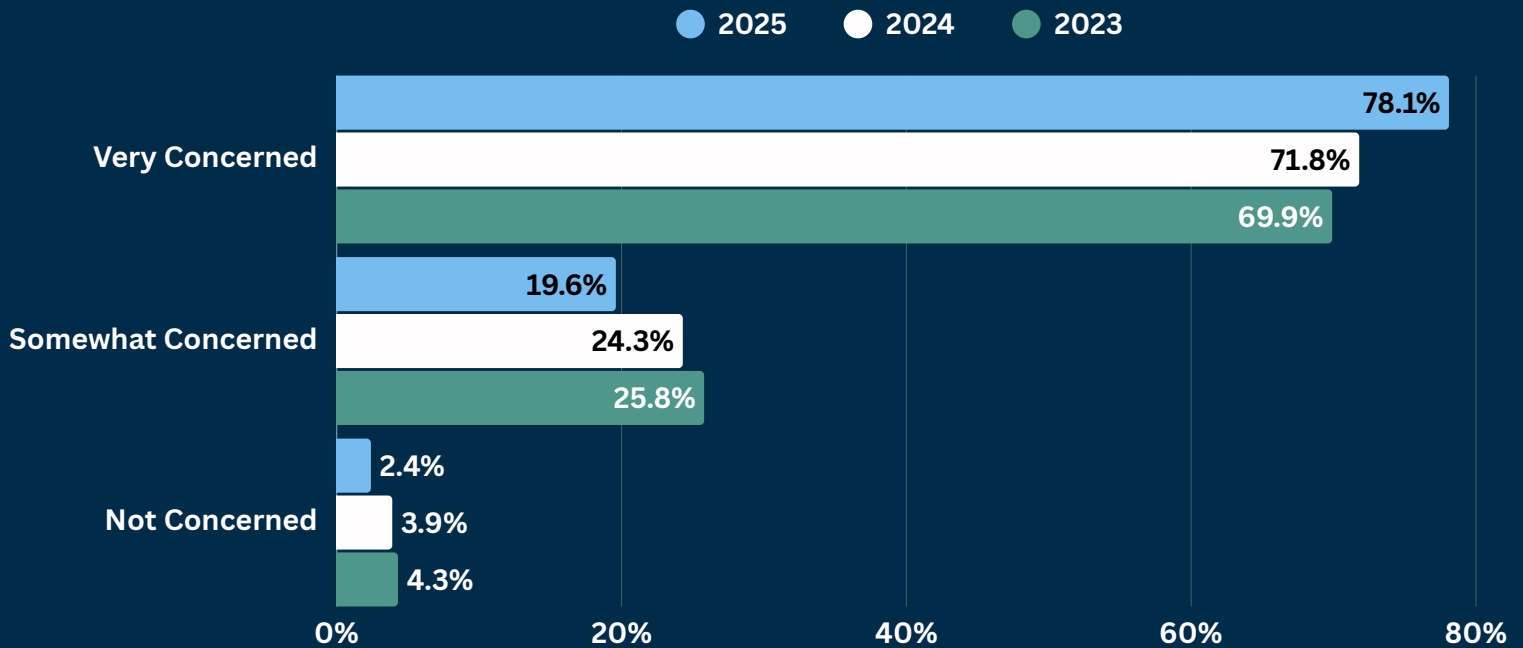
These top five priorities are deeply connected and are indicative that our members' priority towards de-escalation and diplomacy is important, especially now more than ever. Over the past year, regional turmoil, from the war in Gaza to escalating conflict between Iran and Israel, has intensified tensions between the U.S. and Iran and pushed us dangerously close to the brink of war. At the same time, Iran's economy has continued to unravel. Inflation has surged, the currency has plummeted, and the cost of basic necessities has skyrocketed—leaving families inside Iran struggling to survive, and those abroad scrambling to help. The need for peaceful diplomatic solutions is more urgent now than ever before.

The continued sanctions and adversarial policies over the last year have increased discriminatory barriers for Iranian Americans in everyday life too—from the opening bank accounts, ability to buying property, and bans towards traveling to visit loved ones in Iran.

The path forward lies in re-engaging in negotiations, de-escalating tensions, and lifting the sanctions that are punishing innocent people both in Iran and here at home.

## Civil Rights

How concerned are you by threats against the civil rights of Iranian Americans?



*This year, 78.1% of our members say they are very concerned about threats to civil rights and immigration restrictions affecting Iranians—a sharp 6.3% increase from 2024. This jump is almost entirely reflected by drops in the “somewhat concerned” and “not concerned” categories, showing a clear shift toward heightened alarm.*

This growing anxiety can be directly tied to the return of Donald Trump to office and the reintroduction of an even harsher version of the Muslim Ban in a new Travel Ban. Early reports indicate that a renewed ban could go further than before—targeting visa holders and even green card holders already residing in the U.S.

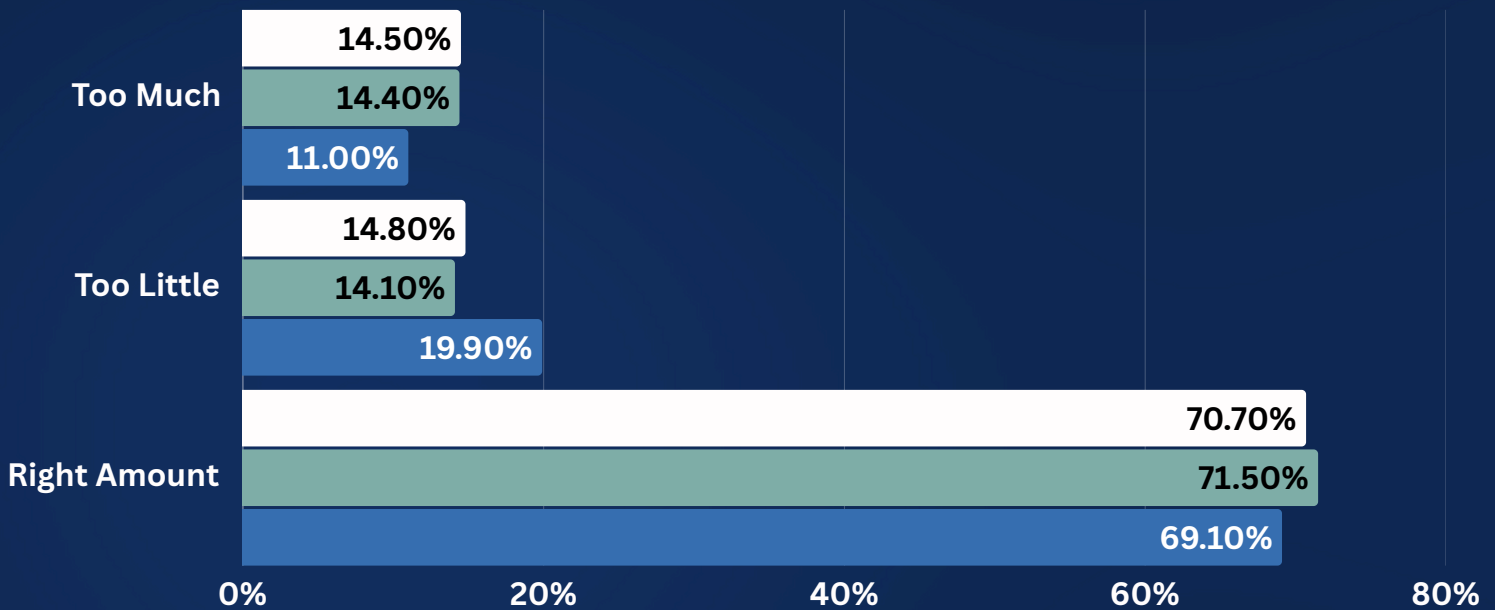
But the fear isn't just about the travel ban. Our community is already experiencing the erosion of civil rights through bank account closures, restrictions on property ownership, and rising scrutiny. State-level laws like Florida's "alien land law"—which bars immigrants from owning property—and proposed federal expansions of such laws only add to the urgency. Bans on student exchange and travel to Iran are also on the rise.

Together, these developments paint a disturbing picture: the threats to our democracy, our rights, and our community are mounting. Our members are paying attention—and they're more concerned than ever.

## Human Rights

Do you support NIAC's work to spotlight human rights in Iran and advocate for U.S. policies in support of human rights in Iran?

● 2025 ● 2024 ● 2023



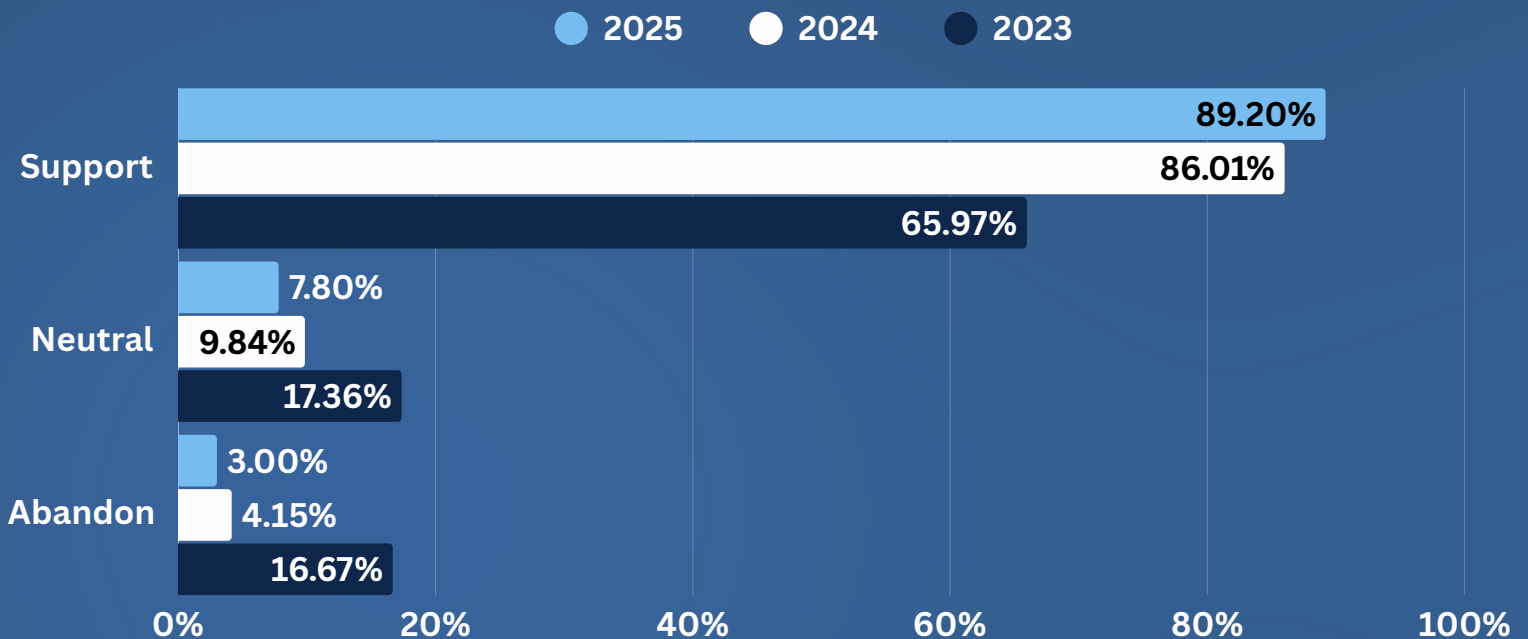
*With results nearly identical to last year, close to 71% of our members say NIAC is placing the right level of focus on human rights in Iran. The breakdown remains unchanged: 14.8% believe we are not focusing enough, while 14.5% feel we are focusing too much.*

Striking the right balance to effectively address human rights concerns continues to be vital. The human rights situation in Iran remains bleak, yet some interests exploit and weaponize these violations to argue for the U.S. to impose further human rights abuses on ordinary Iranians in the form of increased sanctions and military intervention.

As a U.S.-based organization, our advocacy is focused on influencing our elected U.S. government's policy. We remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure that the U.S. government first does no harm and it prioritizes a policy that best allows for the Iranian people to secure their rights and dignity. NIAC focuses on spotlighting violations of international human rights agreements to which Iran is signatory while advocating for tangible, principled policy solutions. Through our Human Rights Tracker and Iran Unfiltered, we continue to shed light on what is happening on the ground—ensuring both policymakers and the broader public are informed.

## Diplomacy

What best matches your opinion on how NIAC should approach diplomacy and the risks of war with Iran?



*In 2025, 89.2% of our members say NIAC should continue supporting U.S. diplomacy with Iran—up from 86% in 2024 and 66% in 2023. Just 7.8% supported a neutral stance, and only 3% say NIAC should abandon diplomacy altogether.*

This surge reflects the growing urgency of de-escalation in a region teetering on the edge of wider war. From the ongoing devastation in Gaza to rising U.S.-Iran confrontations in Iraq, Syria, and the Red Sea, tensions are at a boiling point. For our membership, diplomacy is not just preferred—it's essential to preventing further violence and chaos.

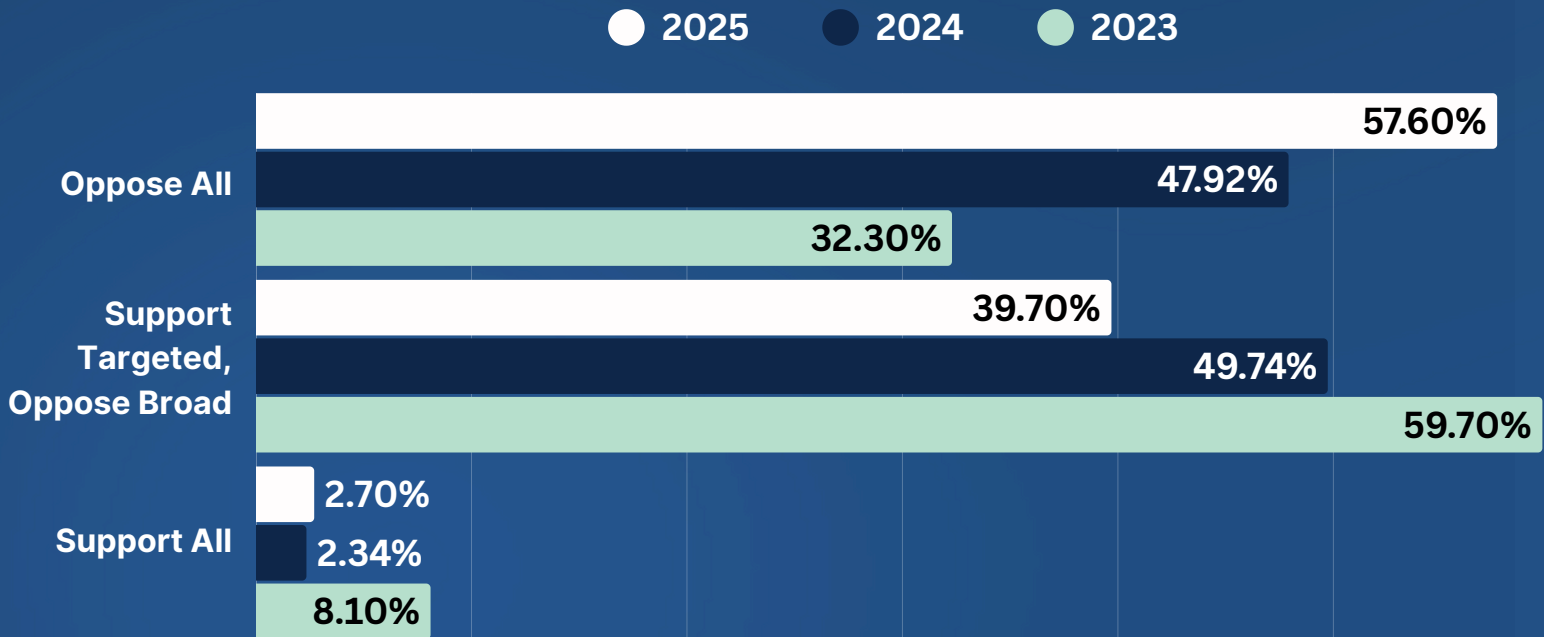
There are signs that a window for diplomacy may be opening again. Even former President Donald Trump, who abandoned the JCPOA but has signaled strong interest in renewed negotiations with Iran towards a nuclear agreement and avoiding war. As global powers re-engage and pressure for a new deal grows, the U.S. must seize this moment to lead with diplomacy.

Our members understand that diplomacy is the only sustainable way to prevent war, protect innocent lives, and avoid further entrenching harmful policies like sanctions and military escalation. With support for diplomacy at an all-time high, NIAC will continue advocating for smart, principled engagement that truly serves the interests of both Americans and Iranians.

As always, our work is shaped by the values and priorities of our grassroots community—and this year, the message is louder than ever: pursue diplomacy, prevent war.

## Sanctions

What is closest to your view on NIAC and its advocacy around sanctions?



***In an important shift, 57.6% of respondents now say NIAC should oppose all sanctions on Iran—up nearly 10 points from 47.9% in 2024, and a dramatic rise from 32.3% in 2023.***

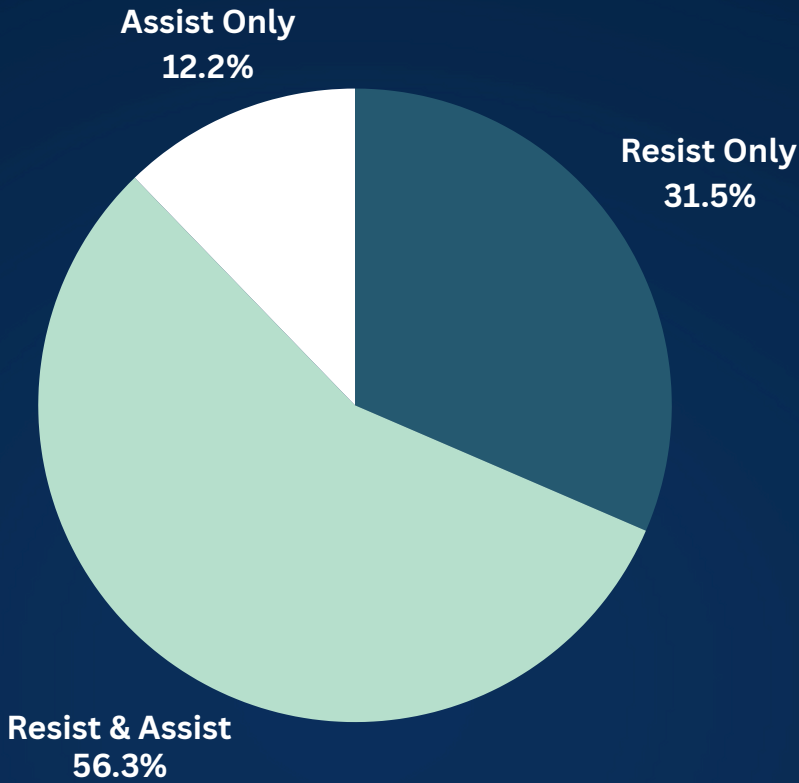
***Meanwhile, supporting targeted sanctions while opposing broad ones has dropped to 39.7%, down from 49.7% last year and 59.7% in 2023. Just 2.7% believe NIAC should support all sanctions.***

This trend reflects a growing recognition of the deep and lasting harm U.S. sanctions inflict on ordinary Iranians. With inflation in Iran remaining above 40% and millions pushed out of the middle class, sanctions have exacerbated suffering for ordinary people and undermined—not advanced—civil society and grassroots movements for democracy and human rights. Though many members continue to support our longstanding position endorsing targeted sanctions on individual rights abusers, most now see the broader sanctions framework as too damaging to be justified.

The near-total collapse in support for any form of blanket sanctions—down from 8.1% in 2023 to just 2.7% today—demonstrates a clear mandate for NIAC to double down on challenging the entire sanctions regime.

As our community's views evolve, NIAC will continue to reassess and refine our approach in alignment with our members. We remain committed to principled advocacy that centers the rights, dignity, and well-being of the Iranian people—both in Iran and in the diaspora.

## Engaging the Trump Administration



**What best matches your view on how NIAC should advance our organizational goals in the second Trump term?**

*In a new question added to this year's survey, a majority of NIAC members—56.3%—support a dual approach of "Resist & Assist" if Donald Trump returns to office: engaging with the administration to advance shared goals, such as diplomacy, while firmly opposing harmful policies like a renewed travel ban or civil rights rollbacks.*

Meanwhile, 31.5% believe NIAC should focus solely on resisting the Trump administration across the board in solidarity with allied communities, reflecting continued concern over the former president's track record on immigration, civil liberties, and democratic norms. Just 12.2% favor a strategy of engaging the administration only on shared interests, without publicly opposing its harmful policies.

These results highlight the complexity our community sees in navigating a potential second Trump term—particularly given his expressed interest in diplomacy and easing sanctions, alongside serious threats to civil rights, minority communities, and democratic institutions. Our members are clear: NIAC must remain principled and nimble—seizing opportunities to prevent war and promote diplomacy, while vocally resisting any policies that harm Iranian Americans or allied communities. This nuanced approach reflects both our values and our mission.

As we prepare for what may be another challenging political era, NIAC remains committed to being accountable to our community, defending our rights, and advancing peace and justice for all.

[www.niacouncil.org](http://www.niacouncil.org)

