



### **Delinquency and crime**

W: Crime figures are perpetually on the increase in developed countries. What made gangs of youths set fire to so many cars in suburban France?

Sarah: I think a growing proportion of European teenage boys live in single parent families and, as a result, often turn to crime. No wonder some people are prepared to do anything to come by money in society where money is king.

W: Western governments ought to be tougher on delinquency, because petty crime in the suburbs makes people's lives a misery and ought to be cracked down on hard by the police. Many people do not go out alone at night for fear of being mugged.

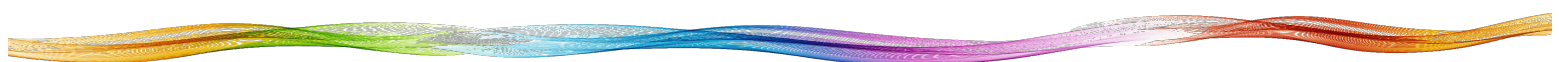
Sarah: I know. Unemployment is also partly responsible for the rise in delinquency. However the number of car thefts is falling, admittedly, but this is mainly due to more sophisticated car alarms.

W: Zero tolerance may be a good thing but it would be better to address the real causes of crime.

Sarah: But who is to blame when children are not brought up properly and roam the streets late at night, left to their own devices?

W: The parents, the educational system, there are always people to blame. To my mind, a return to traditional values like hard work and respect might help reduce delinquency and crime.

Sarah: Maybe, but it remains a wishful thinking.





**GLOSSARY:**

Delinquency and crime	Petty crime
To be on the increase	The suburbs
To set fire	A misery
To turn to	Fear
To come by	Unemployment
Ought to: aux.	The rise
To go out	Car thefts
To be cracked down	Alarms
To be mugged	The real causes
To fall/fell/fallen	The educational system
To be due to	A return
To address	Traditional values
To blame	Hard work
To bring/brought/brought up	A wishful thinking
To roam	Tougher
left to one's own devices	Hard
To reduce	Admittedly
To remain	More sophisticated
Crime figures	
Gangs of youths	
Suburban France	
A growing proportion	
Teenage boys	
single parent families monoparentales	
Money is king	



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