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Immigration

W: Today we'll talk about immigrants who start long journeys in search of better life. Sarah, what could you say about immigration?

Sarah: I know that immigrants are often prepared to risk their lives because they are convinced that the grass is greener on the other side. The problem is that with so many people desperate to come to Western Europe, the people-smuggling business is booming.

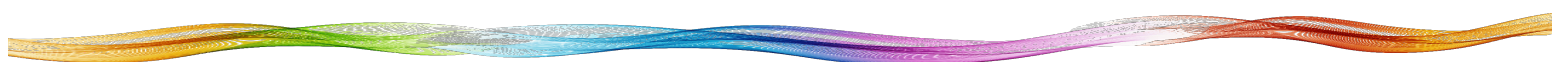
W: They have the same problem in the US. Every day, an average of four thousand people attempt illegally to cross the US-Mexico border. Mexican workers will risk dehydration and death in the Arizona desert to find a job in the US. There are currently thought to be eleven million undocumented migrants living in the United States.

Sarah: Well, America has always been looked upon as a promised land but what immigrants find there sometimes falls short of their expectations. We have the same phenomenon in Europe, where many Eastern Europeans try to sneak into Britain every year.

W: Well I guess immigration is convenient for some people, as illegal workers often do the dirty work that many Europeans now shun. British economists argue that immigration can help offset the impact of an ageing population.

Sarah: Yes. But some say that immigrants push native-born workers out of jobs but economists have found that those fears were not justified.

W: Anyway immigration is likely to remain a highly controversial issue in the coming years.





GLOSSARY:

Immigration	the grass is greener on the other side
To start, To be prepared	The people-smuggling business
To risk: risquer	the US-Mexico border
To be convinced	Mexican workers
To boom	Dehydration
To attempt	Death
To cross	Arizona desert
Thought to be	undocumented migrants
To live	a promised land
To be looked upon	Phenomenon
To fall short of expectations	illegal workers
To sneak	the dirty work
To shun	British economists
To argue	an ageing population
To offset	native-born workers
To push out	Those fears
To be justified	a highly controversial issue
To remain: rester	Desperate
Immigrants: des immigrés	An average
Long journeys: de longs voyages	Illegally
Search of better life : chercher une vie meilleure	Convenient
Lives : pluriel de 'life' : la vie	Likely



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