

Anglais

Thème

Régulièrement, des avions ramènent leur lot de clandestins refoulés des Canaries ⁽¹⁾ après l'accord passé entre le Sénégal et l'Espagne. [...] Quand il a posé le « pied sur la terre du Sénégal », il y a huit jours, après trois semaines dans un centre de détention aux Canaries, Omar a pleuré. De rage et d'impuissance. De honte aussi d'avoir échoué, dit-il, dans « sa mission d'aider ses parents et ses petits frères et sœurs à vivre mieux ». Sa maman, elle, est « juste heureuse de le revoir vivant ». Et « refuse catégoriquement qu'il reparte ». Mais aimerait bien qu'il « ait des papiers et parte légalement travailler en Europe ».

« Les mamans sont face à un choix terrible, dit Yayi Bayam Diouf. Elles sont déchirées. D'un côté, elles ont peur pour leur enfant, d'un autre elles voient bien qu'il n'y a aucun avenir professionnel pour eux ici, pas de projet possible. On ne devrait pas avoir ce choix-là, il est insupportable ! »

Caroline LAURENT, « Des mères contre l'Atlantique », *Elle*, Octobre 2006

⁽¹⁾ *Canaries : Canary Islands*

Exercice d'expression écrite

Rappel : ceci n'est pas un exercice de contraction.

From broken windows to broken schools

In the 1990s New York City's success in cutting crime became a model for America and the world. Innovative policing methods, guided by the "broken windows" philosophy of cracking down on minor offences to encourage a culture of lawfulness, showed that a seemingly hopeless situation could be turned around. It made the name of the mayor, Rudy Giuliani, now a presidential aspirant.

Hopeless is how many people feel about America's government-funded public schools, particularly in the dodgier parts of big cities, where graduation rates are shockingly low and many fail to achieve basic levels of literacy and numeracy. As with urban crime, failing urban schools are preoccupying countries the world over. And just as New York pointed the way on fighting crime, under another mayor, Michael Bloomberg, it is now emerging as a model for school reform.

On November 5th Mr Bloomberg announced a new "report card" for the city's school, designed to make them accountable for their performance. The highest-graded schools will get an increased budget and perhaps a bonus for the principal (head teacher). Schools that fail will not be tolerated: unless their performance improves, their principals will be fired, and if that does not do the trick, they will be closed.

Mr Bloomberg has not been as brave with schools as Mr Giuliani was with crime. Oddly given his belief in competition, the former media mogul shunned the most radical option—vouchers that allow parents to shop around beyond the public-schools system for their children's education. Instead, by using the carrot of pay rises to extract performance concessions from principals and teachers, and by persuading philanthropists such as Bill Gates to pay for innovations that might be hard to sell to the public if the public had to pay for them, he has put in place a system based on transparency, accountability and competition that he hopes will achieve much the same effect.

The Economist, 10/11/07

Questions

1. What does Mr Bloomberg have in common with his predecessor? (70 words minimum)
2. How, in your opinion, can the performance of schools, whether public or private, be improved? (110 words minimum)