

## France fights anorexia

### Read the article and take note of the key words.

France's lower house of parliament has passed a measure banning **excessively** thin fashion models and exposing the modelling agencies and fashion houses that hire them to possible **fin**es and even jail.

The controversial bill was widely debated in the world's fashion capital with those against it, including the National Union of Modelling Agencies, arguing it would give foreign models an advantage in the industry.

Socialist MP Olivier Véran, who **spearheaded** the bill said new measures would require models to undergo a full medical assessment proving they're not **undernourished** before being hired.

"In the bill, I suggest that from now on, a model has to go through a medical visit before she's hired which would evaluate the Body Mass Index, and this index is used by the World Health Organisation to determine if someone is undernourished or even in a state of **famine**. I also suggest that the medical certificate for workability cannot be delivered to people who are undernourished and who therefore are putting their life and health in danger."

Agencies found to employ models considered too thin could face a fine of up to 75,000 euros (that's 55,000 pounds) and six months in prison. The measure is part of a wider **crackdown** on **anorexia** backed by President Francois Hollande's government. A similar **amendment** aimed at so-called **Pro-ana** websites has also been approved under which people found guilty of **inciting** others too extreme thinness could face a year in prison and a ten-thousand-euro fine.

According to the health ministry, an estimated 40,000 people suffer from anorexia in France. Nine out of ten of them women.

Source: <http://www.newsintlevels.com/products/france-fights-anorexia-level-3/>

### Match the words with their meanings.

#### Key words

#### Meanings

excessively	to tell somebody to do something
fine	money you must pay for doing something illegal
spearhead	very
undernourished	pro-anorexia
famine	a mental illness which makes people stop eating
crackdown	rule
anorexia	to lead
amendment	not having enough food
Pro-ana	an action which deals with a problem
incite	having almost no food

## Answer the questions below.

### Comprehension Questions

1. What is the controversial bill about?
2. What is stated in the bill?
3. What could happen to agencies who employ too thin models?
4. According to the article how many people suffer from anorexia in France?
5. What measure has the lower house of France passed?

### Discussion questions

1. Is there a part of your body that you hate?
2. Is it important to have a beautiful body?
3. Do you need to be thin to have a beautiful body?
4. Would you get plastic surgery? Why? Why not?

## Express yourself

Debate on this issue: "Women are dying to be thin" media influences badly on women's bodies.

### Ex: Affirmative Response

Nowadays, people placed beauty in one of the important place for society. The ultra-thin models, fashion, cosmetics and pursuit of ideal figure became a race on "myth perfection". Fashion industry with mass media have negatively influenced on the preoccupation of physical attractiveness. People are trying to reach the ideal appearance with various diets or plastic surgeries. Moreover, they are doing fake nails, hair, eyes, lips, and etc., in order to be as their favorite idol.

### Ex: Negative Response

Beauty requires certain sacrifices. Diets, plastic surgeries, fake nails are sacrifices that women have to give. I do not agree that it is media and fashion industry that changed the perception of beauty. It is the society who demanded such changes. If such thin look wasn't demanded by people, fashion industry would find another ideal just not to lose people who watch them.

