

## **‘Social Exclusion’**

**This concept broadens the debate, using Townsend’s concept of ‘relative deprivation’, by moving beyond the idea that poverty is just about being deprived of things that a person cannot purchase:**

**“... a lack of the material resources, especially income, necessary to participate in British society.”**

*“The dynamic process of being shut out, fully or partially, from any of the social, economic, political and cultural systems which determine the social integration of a person in society.”*

[Carol and Alan Walker, “Poverty and the Poor”, in Developments in Sociology, 1997]

*“... talking of social exclusion rather than poverty highlights the gap between those who are active members of society and those who are forced to the fringe, the increasing risk of social disintegration, and the fact that, for the persons concerned and for society, this is a process of change and not a fixed or static situation.”*

Brian Nolan and Christopher Whelan,  
Resources, Deprivation and Poverty, 1996

e.g. some EMs [Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Irish] and the Disabled.

*“Modern industrial societies ... have largely been constructed on the basis that the people who inhabit them, who produce and reproduce them, and benefit from them, are able-bodied. This is true of workplaces, public and private buildings, transport systems, information and telecommunication networks, retail outlets – indeed almost all venues for social interaction.”*

Pete Alcock, Understanding Poverty [2<sup>nd</sup> ed.] 1997

**In 1997, the incoming Blair Government set up a “Social Exclusion Unit”, answerable directly to the PM.**