



# THE RIGHTS PLATFORM



## What is social exclusion?

**Social exclusion** is the term used to describe those who live their lives on the margins of society because of poverty, inequality, discrimination or denial of human rights.

## What is the practice?

Most activity intended to address social exclusion has no adequate understanding of the term, is poorly targeted and has little or no impact.

## How is it defined?



Social exclusion can be succinctly described as cumulative marginalisation:

- From production (**unemployment**)
- From consumption (**income poverty**)
- From social networks (**community, family and neighbours**)
- From decision making and from an adequate quality of life

It is the cumulative effect that defines social exclusion – i.e. the overall impact is greater than the sum of the exclusions.

## How should it be tackled?

Tackling social exclusion requires affirmative action. That means treating socially excluded people more favourably than people who are not socially excluded. Treating everybody equally changes nothing.

Affirmative action can be applied by designating greater resources – budgets, personnel, programmes – towards these communities than are proportionately designated to the general community.



## How is success measured?

By setting out impact indicators and measuring progress towards these indicators.