

# At risk of poverty

## Caption

The people in this film were interviewed for the ITV Breadline Britain series in 1983, 1991 and 2013 and the PSE case studies in 2011 and 2012.

## Hackney

### 2012: Renée

I'm a qualified registered mental health nurse but due to the structuring of the hospitals all the post were frozen so I am not actively working as a registered mental health nurse I'm working as a support worker. As a support worker, it's very difficult on the money we're earning. You've got to pay your rent, you've got the gas, electricity, telephone, television. I am always in the minus....

## Caption

For the last thirty years, the same groups of people have remained vulnerable to poverty.

## Pensioners

### 1983: Ernie

Because I've got my civil service pension, I'm penalised and they turn round and had the cheek to say I have got enough.

### 1991: Julie

To be poor it's not very nice it's a thing we all have to come to old age. Poor old age pensioners they have to just get on with it and do the best they can with it and struggle.

### 2012: Rosaleen

I would have thought it would be that I would have enough money to keep me going. You know that I wouldn't be worrying about money. But now I have to worry about money because of my finance being so low.

It's skimping probably skimping the whole way in your life.

### **Caption**

Pensioners have fared better over the years compared to other groups.

Even so, today in 2012 25% single pensioners feel poor all or some of the time.

### **Lone parents**

#### **1983: Tricia**

Well it a lot different now to what it was when I was married. At that time I could afford to go out and buy anything I wanted, clothes for the kids, toys for the kids, anything, put money in the bank, go and buy furniture, have a holiday, all those type of things. And now I can't have anything like that.

#### **1991: Yvonne**

Since my husband and myself are separated... I mean, things were sort of tight before but we could make ends meet because there was two of us. Now it's just me on my own, it's very, very difficult. I am having to make two ends meet.

#### **2012: Jennie**

They say single mothers that are on benefits they don't want to go to work. I *do* want to go to work but it's finding that right job and the right hours to suit me and to suit my children. You know, it's hard but I'm determined to do it in the end. No matter how long it takes me, you know I want to change my situation.

### **Caption**

Lone parents remain one of the group most vulnerable to poverty.

In 2012, 70% of lone parents lacked three or more necessities.

### **People with disabilities**

#### **1983: Mavis**

Honestly, the times I've been in hospital for diabetes for control, it seems that they do nothing but feed you. And you feel like you are having too much but you know that it's the correct diet. Usually when I come out of hospital I found I have put on quite a lot of weight.

**1991: Jimmy**

We find it very difficult to manage on the money. When I was working we found it pretty easy because my wage was 4 year ago, £130, quite a lot of money then. But now we are getting less money than I was earning then and it seems I am not able to work, so it just pulls the plug on the train. You just keep on going down and down, you sink to what you never thought you would sink to.

**2012: Fiona**

You see I hurt my back in November '98 – it was very sudden. They said it was a slipped disc so they had to do a discectomy. My walking is very difficult.

Like everybody you dreamed of what was going to happen you know. Get married, we were going to have children. Our jobs were going to get better. I never ever thought I wouldn't work.

**Caption**

In 2012 around 70 %of adults who were permanently sick or disabled lacked three or more necessities.

**The unemployed**

**1983: Roy**

Roy: When I get back to work I will think about...

Child: If you get back to work, you sound as though *you'll really get back to work*

Roy: I get so frustrated, knowing I am stuck at home feeling useless. That's all it is, you feel useless. So until I get a job I just got to sit down and suffer, what's the word, the indignities of being out of work.

**1991: Richard**

You've got no chance at all, it's impossible. I mean they are closing factories up every time we put the television on and they expect us to go out at 50 years old with no skills and get a job and yet they can't find a job for a 17 year old even with degrees or nothing they still can't get a job.

**2013: Martin**

It's like I am going to forever walk that road and that's scary, that's scary. I want to change that. And I am doing what I can to change that.

**Caption**

Unemployment continues to bring a high risk of poverty.

Over 67% of the unemployed lacked three or more necessities in 2012.

**Young unemployed**

**1983: Kevin**

I left school 5 years ago and I've had jobs for about a month and then a long spell of unemployment .

There's a girl who I would like to, you know, push, go further with but at this state of time I couldn't ask her to marry me and buy a house and all that...

**1991: Kim**

You're sitting there and you say 'can you spare any change please' and they say go and get a job. And then you try and explain that you can't get a job but they don't want to hear. You get them coming out of the pubs late at night and they chuck coke over you like they just come out of McDonalds, they just chuck coke over you and so you're soaking for the whole night, things like that, or spit on you.

**2012: Marc**

They all think you're all scum. Living off the job centre and benefits and everything – but some people can't help it, you know. I can't help it. Basically getting a job for me

is, it would be life changing – cos I'd be able to afford things I wouldn't have. I'd be able to do things, meet new people. I can't do it when I am not working. I just can't.

### **Caption**

In 2012, over 20% of young people were unemployed – the highest level since unemployment records began in 1992.

### **Low paid workers**

#### **1983: Roy**

The wage itself, I'd say is more or less the poverty line.

For a single bloke, you know, you'd be far better off with my wage because me it is very difficult with having the three children and the wife to support. It's really hard going.

#### **1991: Steve**

When I first started it was quite well paid but with the inflation going up and up and that our wages have not been going up as the inflation is going up. So we do find it awful hard.

#### **2012: Dave**

We work hard and money goes out on bills. So we never see any of the money we are actually earning and that is quite depressing in itself when you work all that time and you get nothing back from it.

### **Caption**

In 1983, under 40% of households in poverty were in were in low paid work.

In 2012, this had risen to nearly 60%.

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