

Peter Townsend

University qualifications and teaching Peter Townsend is Centennial Professor of International Social Policy (and was in 2002 Acting Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights) at the London School of Economics. He is also Emeritus Professor of Social Policy in the University of Bristol. His BA at Cambridge was in Moral Sciences (Philosophy, Ethics, Logic and Social Psychology) and he was a postgraduate student in Social Anthropology and then Sociology at the Free University of Berlin. He has Honorary Doctorates from the University of Essex, 1991, the University of Teesside, 1994, the Open University, 1995, the University of Edinburgh, 1996, the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside, 1997, the University of York 2000, and the University of Stirling 2002. In 1999 he was elected a founder Academician of the new Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences (AcSS). In 2004 he was elected Senior Fellow of the British Academy.

After early years as Research Secretary and Research Officer of Political and Economic Planning and the Institute of Community Studies, 1952-57, he was Research Fellow and lecturer at the London School of Economics, 1957-1963, and then appointed Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex upon its foundation in 1963. He held this post for 18 years (during which he also worked for the first seven years on his national survey of poverty at LSE). In 1982 he moved to the University of Bristol to become Head of the Department of Social Policy and Social Planning for 11 years. In 1991-92 he was Michael Harrington Distinguished Visiting Professor of Social Science, Queens College, City University of New York. From 1993 he continued to teach an MSc programme at Bristol. In 1998 he re-joined LSE, teaching on several of the graduate courses in development and human rights, and in 2002 was Acting Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

Principal Publications since 1990 Since 1990 his publications include seven books based on new research: *The International Analysis of Poverty* (1993), *A Poor Future* (1996), *Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain* (with other authors, 2000), *Breadline Europe: The Measurement of Poverty* (co-editor), 2001), *Targeting Poor Health* (2001); *World Poverty: New Policies to Defeat an Old Enemy* (co-editor), 2002. *Child Poverty in the Developing World* (with other authors, 2003). Primary interests: poverty, human rights, inequalities in health, pensions.

International Agencies: During 1960-1990 he served in various capacities for the UNESCO, WHO and ILO. He was consultant to the UN 1993-95 during the preparations for, and at, the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen in March 1995; and was a member of a UNDP Management Development Programme mission to the Republic of Georgia in 1994. Consultant/expert to the EU (1998); UNRISD (1999); the Royal Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (the Copenhagen Seminars 1997-2001); UN Division for Social Policy (2001). He is currently a member of a UNICEF research team [2000-]. In the 1990s and early 2000s he undertook cross-national research and administrative assignments for the European Union, the International Labour Office, the United States Institutes of Health, and the Public Health Department of Harvard University.

Principal Current Non-Academic Activities: Child Poverty Action Group: Among founding members 1965, Chairman 1969-1989, Life President 1989-.

Disability Alliance: Founder (with Alan Walker) 1973-74; Chair 1974-99, President 1999- .

National Assembly for Wales: Chair of the National Advisory Group 2000-2, and then Chair of the Standing Committee 2002-, on the Allocation of NHS Resources

Fabian Society: Member 1947-; Elected Member of Executive Committee 1958-89; Chairman 1965-66; Chairman of Home Policy, Social Policy and Research Committees for 15 years; Vice President 1989- .

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