

BTS NRC – Session 2012 - Source ELLLO

WELFARE - 1'54 - Transcript

Rachel: So what about America? If you lose your job what happens?

Todd: Well, we have what you have. It's not called the dole though, it's called the welfare, and basically what happens is if you lose your job, you can get money from the government, but it's really short-term. I think it's only six months or a year, but the biggest difference I think between Europe and America is the word. We call it welfare. And welfare is really negative. If you tell somebody that you're on welfare, or even on unemployment, then people really look at you negatively.

Well, actually let me clarify. There's two: There's welfare which is kind of more long-term like if you have children, and then there's unemployment which is money you get from the government if you don't have a job. If you're on unemployment, it's not as bad but people still kind of look at you like you're a loser. That you should go out and find a job., and if you're on welfare, it has a really negative connotation. People look at you like you're just lazy basically.

Rachel: Is that true if you're in a community where, like, the majority of people are on welfare? Are there any places like that in America?

Todd: I mean the main problem is those people probably weren't given the same quality of education. They don't have the same job opportunities, so deep down they probably wish they had a better job, but they don't, so they're kept in this vicious cycle that keeps them down.

Rachel: Yeah, that sounds similar to areas of Britain with like extreme deprivation. There's places like that where three generations have been on the dole sort of thing.

Another problem is for single mothers. Sometimes, the cost of childcare means that it's not actually worth them getting a job. Is it the same in America?

Todd: Yeah, definitely. We don't have any government supported childcare.