

To be blackballed



When someone is ***blackballed***, he is **shunned by society**. The term harks back to the heyday of the gentleman's club of the 18th and 19th centuries, when entry into one of these hallowed institutions depended entirely on the anonymous vote of one's peers. If the applicant was deemed suitable, the member would place a white ball in the bag, but a ***black ball*** signified rejection