

To whom it may concern,

Of course, without question the minimum wage needs to be raised to a living wage.

It is not just teenagers who are earning minimum wage but older people too with children, people trying to pay rent, run a car that they need for work and eat and pay for all the extra costs of living.

The working poor who are in poverty are those mostly on minimum wages or low incomes.

They have the same costs as those on middle and high wages. Rents and mortgages are not cheaper cos you earn less. Car costs are not cheaper cos you have a very low income.

Remember in some countries a speeding fine is a percentage of what you earn so as to make it fairer as they realize it has a different impact based on income.

50 euro to a minimum worker is more than five hrs work so very big amount but to another worker it's just an hrs work or not even one hour work. A lot more of life's precious time to minimum worker than to a well-paid worker.

Today we have lots of new extra charges we did not have before such as NCT charges. House property charges, parking charges, toll bridge charges, bin charges as well as other charges like utilities, tv licence, house insurance, car insurance car tax, then there are costs such as house painting, repair costs, car maintenance and repair costs. Childcare costs. Health care costs, all unavoidable costs (most minimum wage earners don't have medical cards).

These are not high for some earners but for others are huge stressful costs.

Being on minimum wage is very stressful. Studies have shown higher depression associated with lower incomes, it's the stress it causes and the inability to pay for a living.

The minimum wage is so low for the high cost of living that people can no longer socialise.

Doctor charges are more than five hrs work and then there is the medicine costs for minimum wage works -A full days wages wiped out.

People can't afford a doctor or a dentist. That's just crazy as not luxuries.

There is more training and more responsibility in jobs now but no reflection of this in pay. Childcare etc requires training which the worker has to pay for and then they are told they are child care professionals but paid pitiful wages for a hugely responsible stressful job.

Healthcare assistants are the same. Home care assistants driving around wasting petrol and time and exhausted killing themselves to get by working crazy long days to try to earn enough to get by.

People in low paid and minimum paid jobs have no autonomy and often don't enjoy their hard jobs and then no reward of decent pay to even help soften the burden.

What I have seen is nurses and other professionals have courses etc being paid for them by their employers. Business people having,

company cars, double time for unsociable hrs etc, yet those with least hourly pay don't get double their meagre hourly rate on Sundays ( hotel workers, shop workers etc). They don't even have that much that better paid workers have ( a two tier work system) .those on minimum wages have to pay for courses and get no travel expenses for travelling to diff jobs such as home care.

The work place is a very unjust place where some workers are valued more than others by pay and job conditions and perks etc.

The better off can afford workmen to fix things in their homes without it being a terrible financial strain. The minimum wage worker is completely broke by having to call a plumber.

It's obvious that it's impossible to live on minimum wage. There are always things to be paid or fixed with houses, cars, people get sick, people need dentists, people need to eat. People at times need physio esp. those that do physical work (a lot on minimum wage workers) these people don't have medical cards.

For goodness sake what will 10 euro or less get you nowadays. That's what you have to focus on and an hour is a long time of work when you consider how fast that ten euro or less !! Like the minimum wage goes. Give people a chance in life. Aldi pay a living wage. It's not much but it's better than the below living standard wage Irish have set as minimum wage. Places that have raised minimum wage have not lost out.

Please remember many people in all age brackets are on minimum wage. It is probably hardest on the older workers. It' us morally wrong not to raise it

Regards [REDACTED].