



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release  
Youth Work Ireland  
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**“Low Pay Commission Recommendation on Sub-minimum Wage Should be Acted on Immediately”  
says Leading Youth Organisation**

Youth Work Ireland has today called for the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Low Pay Commission on Sub-minimum wages for young people. The organisation has said the continuing existence of a form of discrimination for young people is hugely problematic and sends out all the wrong signals to young people who want to work and contribute to society. Young people in contact with the organisation have often been offered supervisory roles at the same “sub-minimum” wage where they would manage staff earning more than them. The organisation has said the recommendation of the Low Pay Commission is a crucial test for the Government’s commitment to young people in the advance of a General Election.

“Young people have been to the forefront of the reopening of the economy after Covid and the debate about this issue has been ongoing. Huge numbers of young people are still working on sub-minimum wages getting paid significantly less than people working alongside them as the law provides for automatic discrimination against young people in this area. An eighteen-year-old adult will receive 80% of a 21 year old co-worker under our current system or indeed anyone carrying out the same work. There is no “equal pay for equal work” when it comes to young people who will be critical to this reopening” said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

“It is wholly unacceptable that young people are paid less for precisely the same work as older people who they could even be working alongside in the same workplace. This discrimination is based on outmoded and outdated Victorian ideas. It is predicated on the notion that young people have less responsibilities than others and this is far from clear. Such an assumption intrudes into young people’s personal lives and is not acceptable in the tax or welfare code for other people. We do not, for example, vary the minimum wage for people with more children or those who may care for older people or people with disabilities. In the end of the day pay systems do not get into our personal circumstances to any great degree. The only area where this is provided for is in relation to the minimum wage and young people” Mc Loughlin added.

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Youth Spokespersons may be available.