

Ireland needs a pay rise: Wage floors and economic recovery

Unite offices

Unite offices (Matt Merrigan Hall), 55/56 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1

Thursday 10th July, 9.30am – appr. 1.30pm



How can we ensure that all workers in Ireland earn a Living Wage or above? Research shows that Irish wages in the private sector are well below other European countries, despite the fact that Irish productivity is high and Irish profits are growing. This is not just a feature of the traditional low-paid sectors - retail and hospitality. Even in the manufacturing and professional services sectors, low pay persists. This seminar will examine how robust wage floors can help produce a wage-led recovery.

09.00 Registration, tea/coffee

Chair: *Siobhán O'Donoghue, Director, Uplift*

09.30 Opening

David Begg, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions

09.40 Why the economy needs a pay rise

Prof Terrence McDonough, NUI Galway

10.00 Minimum Essential Standards of Living: Expenditure and a Living Wage

Sr Bernadette McMahon, Vincentian Partnership

10.15 Raising the floor: Driving up the Minimum Wage

Dr Rory O'Farrell, Nevin Economic Research Institute

10.30 Raising the floor: Increasing hours

Gerry Light, Assistant General Secretary, Mandate Trade Union

10.45 Is there a case for an enhanced system of JLCs?

Dr Joe Wallace, University of Limerick

11.00 Panel discussion – beneficiaries of improved wage floors (tea/coffee)

Suzanne Griffin (National Women's Council of Ireland), Edel McGinley (Migrant Rights Centre Ireland), Áine Mannion (We're Not Leaving)
(5 minute presentations followed by discussion)

12 noon Strategies for raising the floor

Michael Taft, Research Officer, Unite the Union



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For information or to reserve a place contact alex.klemm@unitetheunion.org