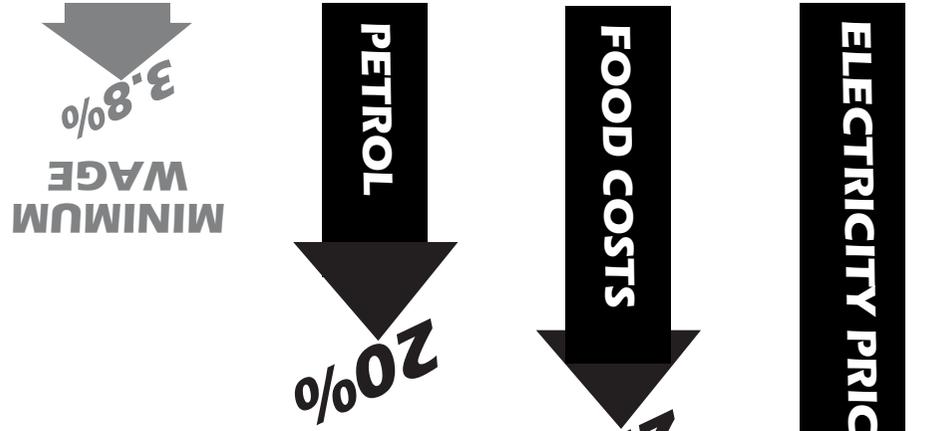


SOCIALIST YOUTH

END LOW

PAY



As the cost of living goes through the roof the proposed increase for the minimum wage in October is nowhere near what is needed. How is anyone expected to live off this poverty wage?

The proposed increase in the minimum wage in October will be on average 3.8%. The government's own statistics say that the cost of living is rising at 4.3%. However as anyone who has felt the electricity, food and fuel prices go up knows it is much higher than this. The soaring cost of living will effectively cancel out the planned increase in the minimum wage, which means the lowest paid will see their pay cut, not increased.

Since its introduction in 1998 the minimum wage has never risen above inflation. Instead it has been consistently held down by New Labour with the sup-

07876146473 www.socialistyouth.wordpress.com

port of their friends in the Confederation of British Industry (employer's organisation). The bosses organisations don't have to worry about the rising cost of living. Heads of the financial sector in the City of London have been awarded £13billion in bonuses so far this year alone!

The minimum wage is geared in such a way as to discriminate against younger workers. The splitting of the minimum wage into tiers depending on your age means that bosses can legally be pay young workers less than older workers for doing the same work!

By using discrimination, bosses can undermine the wages of all workers as well as exploit young workers. That is why young workers need to campaign to abolish the youth exemptions. If young workers organise, we can force bosses to improve our pay and conditions by taking action.

In March a young worker in Delaney's restaurant in Belfast was sacked for wearing a jacket at work. In response well attended pickets were placed outside the restaurant. After three pickets, the boss was forced to cave by paying her back pay and offering her job back.

If you have a fat cat or bullying boss then you can confidentially 'Name and Shame' them on our board or send in details to socialist.youth@btconnect.com. The worst employer at the end of the month will be picketed to highlight the conditions they force workers to work under.

Join Socialist Youth

Socialist Youth fight for a socialist society where the vast wealth and technology we have now can be used to increase the well-being of all not the greed of a tiny elite. We stand against this system of capitalism that has only bred poverty and misery from the disaster in Iraq to Belfast where 1 in 3 children now live in poverty. If you agree with what we stand for then join today!

I would like to join Socialist Youth more information

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL

E-MAIL

Return to: Socialist Youth, 13 Lombard St Belfast BT1 1RB

socialist.youth@btconnect.com www.socialistyouth.wordpress.com

WE DEMAND

▶ £8 minimum wage NOW

▶ Abolish the youth exemptions

▶ End bullying, intimidation and poor working conditions

▶ Trade union rights for all young workers