

The living wage: an idea whose time has come

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Introduction

Every week night, a steady stream of young people gather on a quiet side street in Vancouver, British Columbia, waiting for the local Sikh temple to open its doors. The free, nutritious food provided by this

across the UK, US, Canada and New Zealand live in households where at least one person is in paid employment (Perry, 2013; Aldridge, Kenway, Madras & Paek, 2012). Poor children do less well in school, have reduced life chances and are more likely to be physically or mentally ill (UNISON, 2010).

When the adults in the family have to work long hours or work two or three jobs to pay the bills, they are unlikely to have time to spend with their family, much less to help out at their children

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