

**LIVING ON THE EDGE:
America's low-earning families**

Sophia Parker

“If you work 40 hours a week and you’ve got a child in the house, you will no longer be in poverty. It is an elemental, powerful and profound principle. It ought to become part of the American creed”

President Clinton in 1992

A snapshot

**One in three
working-age
households live
in the shadow of
the American
Dream.**

Exposed by the recession

Deeper economic
vulnerability

Getting by, not getting on

Explaining the squeeze

The crisis in living standards represents a 'lost decade' more than a 'burst bubble'.

A rising tide no longer lifts all boats

The rise of precarious work

The problem of policy 'drift'

What can be done?

Action can and must be taken to address the crisis in living standards for ordinary Americans.

Ensuring a decent income

Quality work at the low end of the labor market

Building economic security

Those seeking to tackle poverty today must direct their efforts at the world of work, as well as the world of welfare, if they are to make a real difference to people's lives.