**Many of us have at least one issue or passion that we care deeply about – a topic on which we would love to share our opinions and insights in hopes of sparking intense interest and continued conversation. If you had ten minutes and the attention of a million people, what would your talk be about? 250 words**

It was red, and the car halted to a stop. I was sitting in the back seat impatiently, worried of being late for school. Red means it’s time for child beggars to swarm the streets and roam selling toys and drinks or perform music. The contrast between our lives was stark. Growing up in Jakarta means having child beggars and workers on the streets as part of daily scenery. Wherever you pass by the roads, they would wait for the red-light to signal their work for daily bread. There is no school or aid for people like them.

The reason I believe this matter as critical problem not only for the obvious – child labor or child poverty, but also because it’s something most people can easily turn a blind eye to. Although most are not affected by the issue, I believe it speaks about all of us Jakartans as a society. It represents how we treat the weakest members of our community. Child labor is not only an educational, a welfare, or an economical issue, but also an ethical subject about where our priorities and compassion lie. I realized that I too could have been born into poverty just as likely as a family with privilege. I view those children as family of the same generation, and it pains me to see their living condition by no fault of their own. It is part of my personal goal to see it disappear from Jakarta when I grow up.