

PHOTO ADVOCACY PROJECT

Photography to shine light
on issues in their community
Zejman, Albania

Cameras capture reality.

But the reality that many poor children see every day is a reality most people don't see or choose not to see.

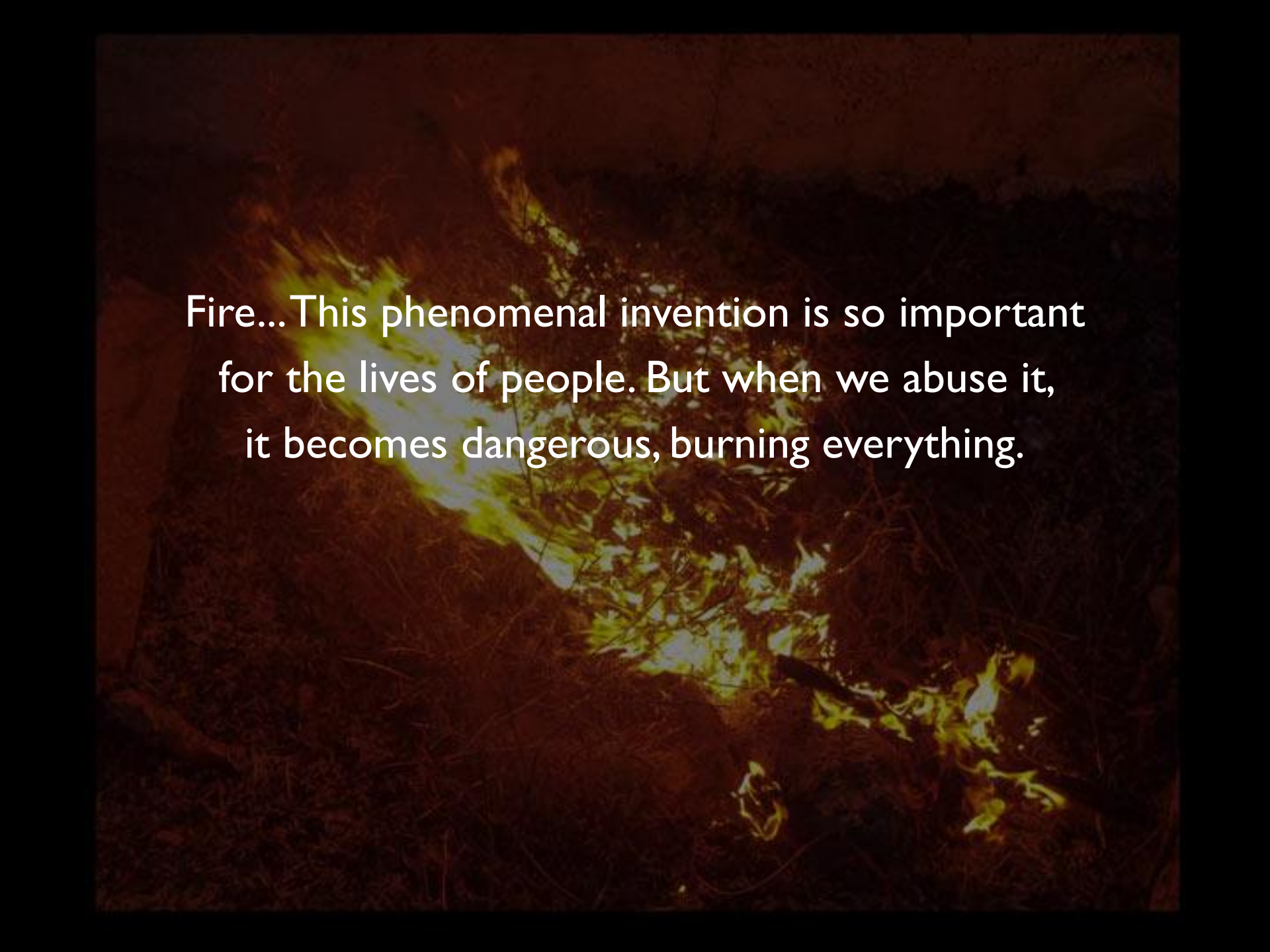
Knowing this, twelve teenagers from Zejman, a village outside Lezha in Albania, used cameras to highlight many issues in their everyday lives.

These photos and comments are part of this project.

**Regress or Progress:
Where is our society going?**



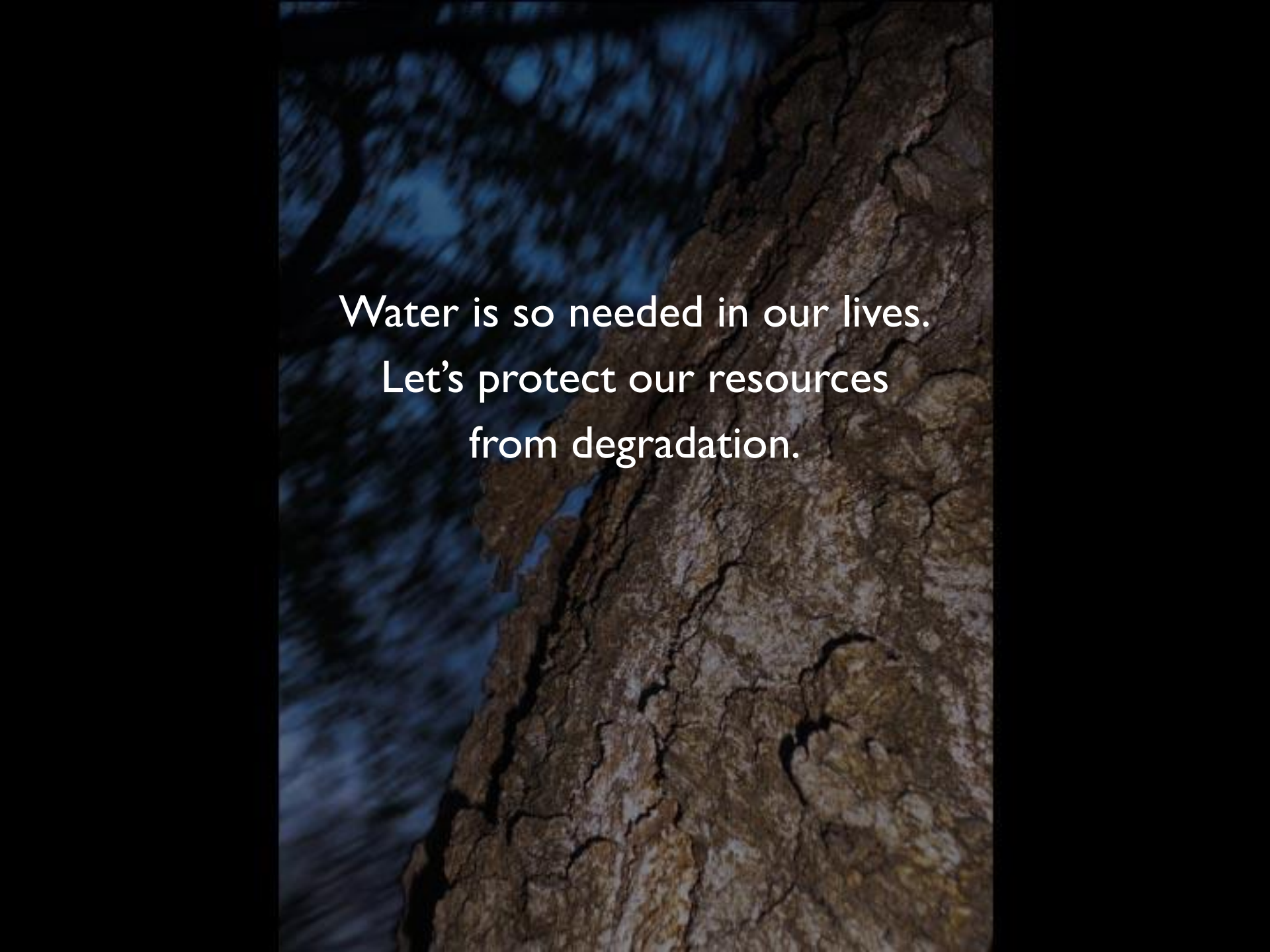


A photograph of a fire burning in a field of dry grass and brush. The fire is bright yellow and orange, with flames rising from the ground. The background is dark and smoky. The text is overlaid in white, centered in the upper half of the image.

Fire... This phenomenal invention is so important
for the lives of people. But when we abuse it,
it becomes dangerous, burning everything.





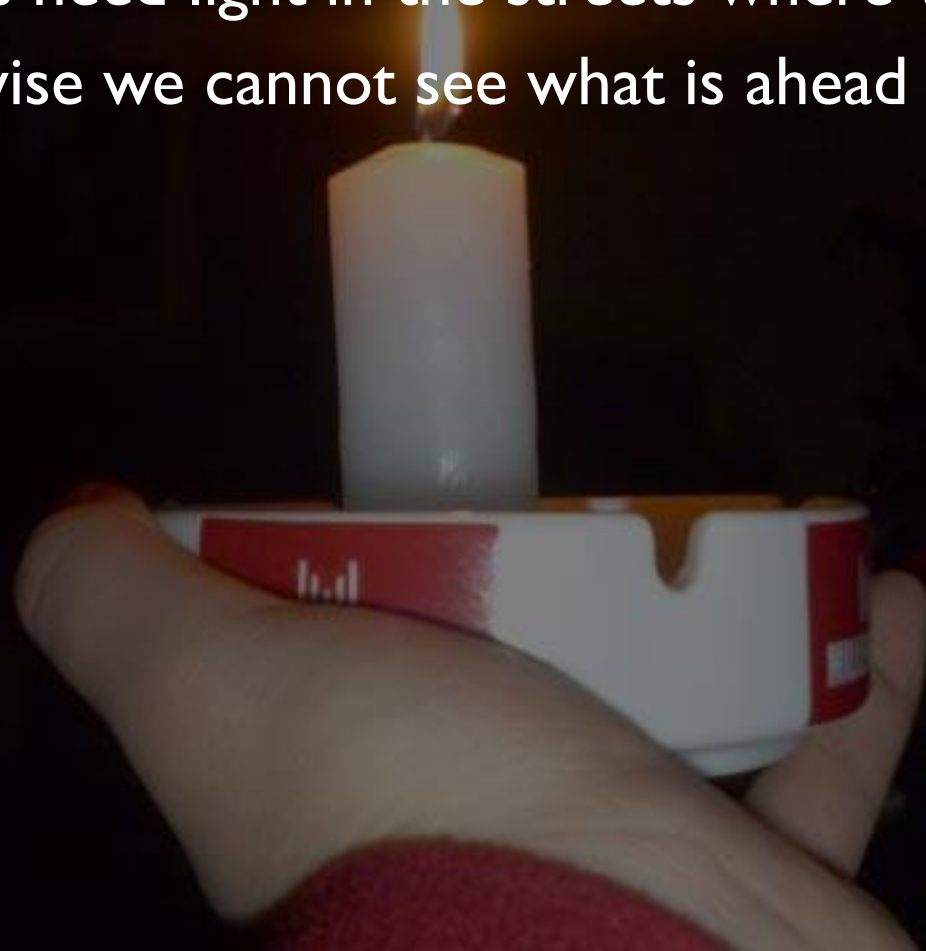


Water is so needed in our lives.
Let's protect our resources
from degradation.



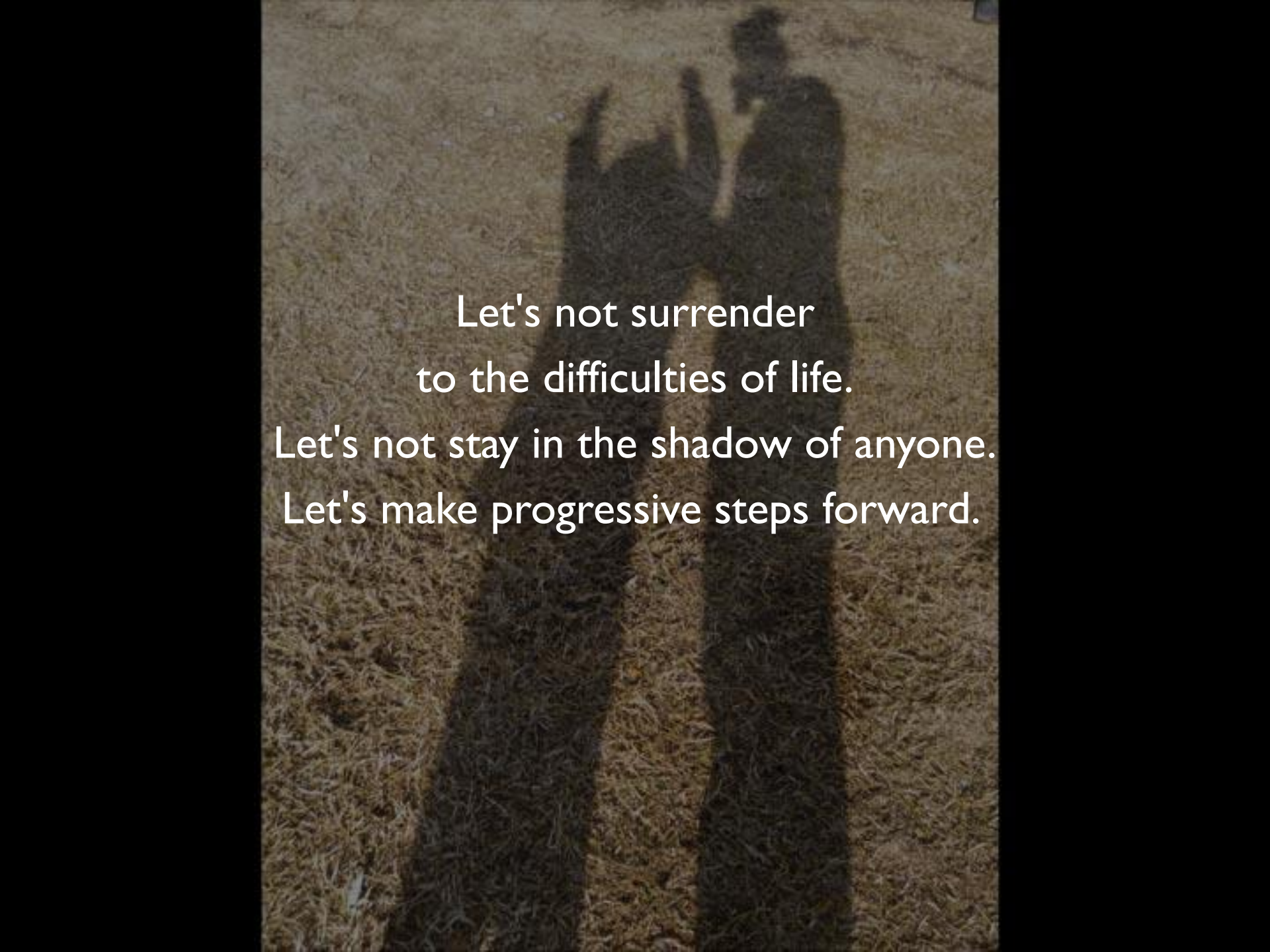


We always need light in the streets where we walk.
Otherwise we cannot see what is ahead of us.








A photograph of a person's shadow cast onto a dry, grassy field. The shadow is long and dark, extending from the top center towards the bottom of the frame. The person's head, shoulders, and legs are visible in the shadow. The background is a textured, brownish-yellow grass.

Let's not surrender
to the difficulties of life.

Let's not stay in the shadow of anyone.
Let's make progressive steps forward.








We are responsible for the pollution
and state of our environment...
This is a danger for our future.



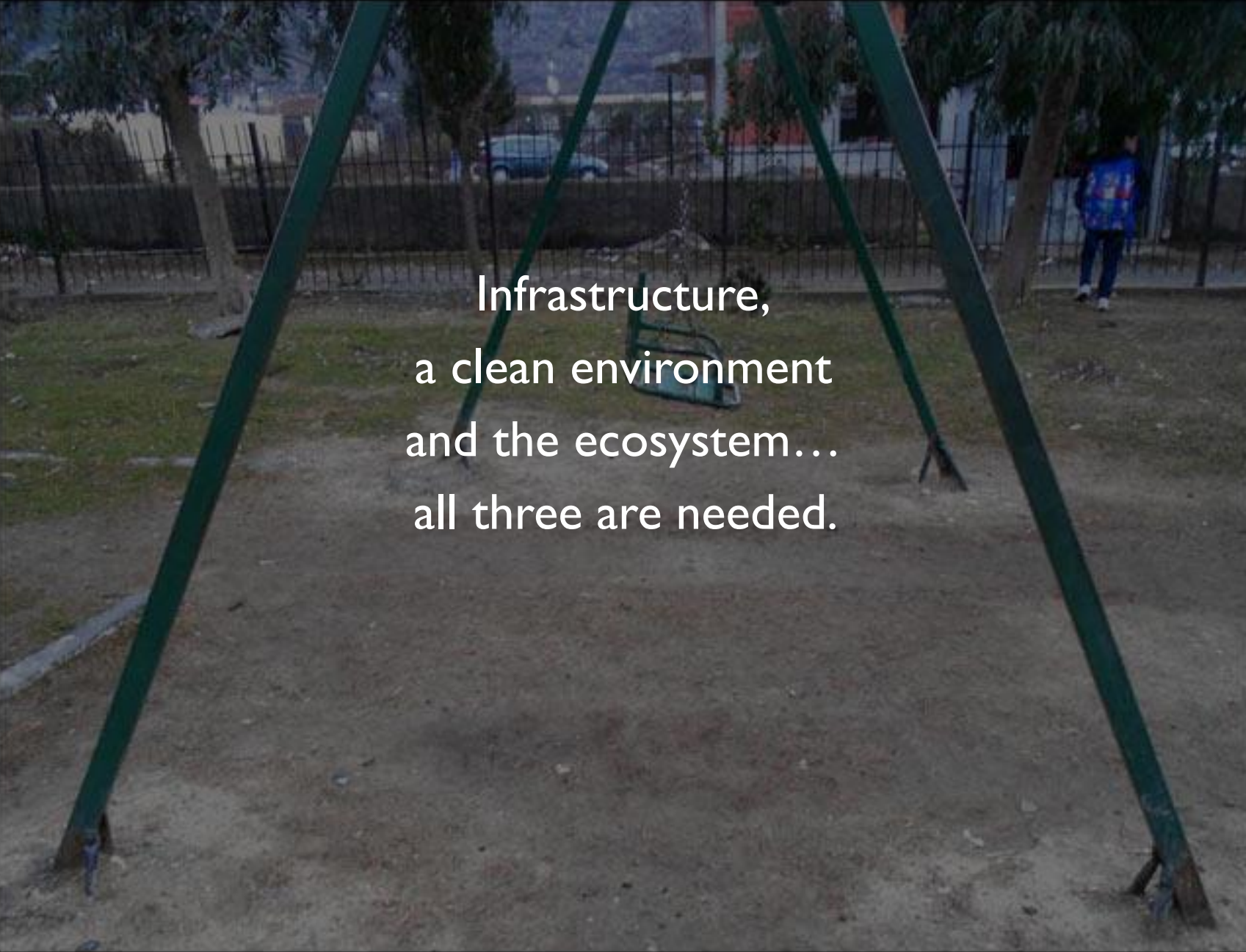


A close-up photograph of a dried, spiky seed head, likely from a thistle or similar plant, mounted on a thin, dark stem. The seed head is dark and has many sharp, pointed bracts. The background is a soft-focus landscape of dry, brownish vegetation under a pale sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark filter to make the white text stand out.

These seeds are gone.
Plans for the future are exhausted...
Let's find new ways
to give more guarantees
for our future.








Infrastructure,
a clean environment
and the ecosystem...
all three are needed.





A dark, moody photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, there are bare, dark tree branches. In the background, a body of water is visible, with a dark, silhouetted shoreline and hills in the distance. The sky is a pale, overcast grey. The overall tone is somber and atmospheric.

Both sun and rain exist.
Be strong and prepared to handle
everything that life throws at us.





There always is a bright light until the sun sets.








A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, lying on a light-colored, textured rug. The girl, on the left, has long brown hair and is wearing a pink and white striped sweater. The boy, on the right, has dark hair and is wearing a blue and white striped sweater. They are both lying on their stomachs, facing each other, and holding hands. The text is overlaid on the image in white, sans-serif font.

Children are the future of our community
so let them grow up as they deserve.

Do not damage their happiness,
because this is what their world is made of!



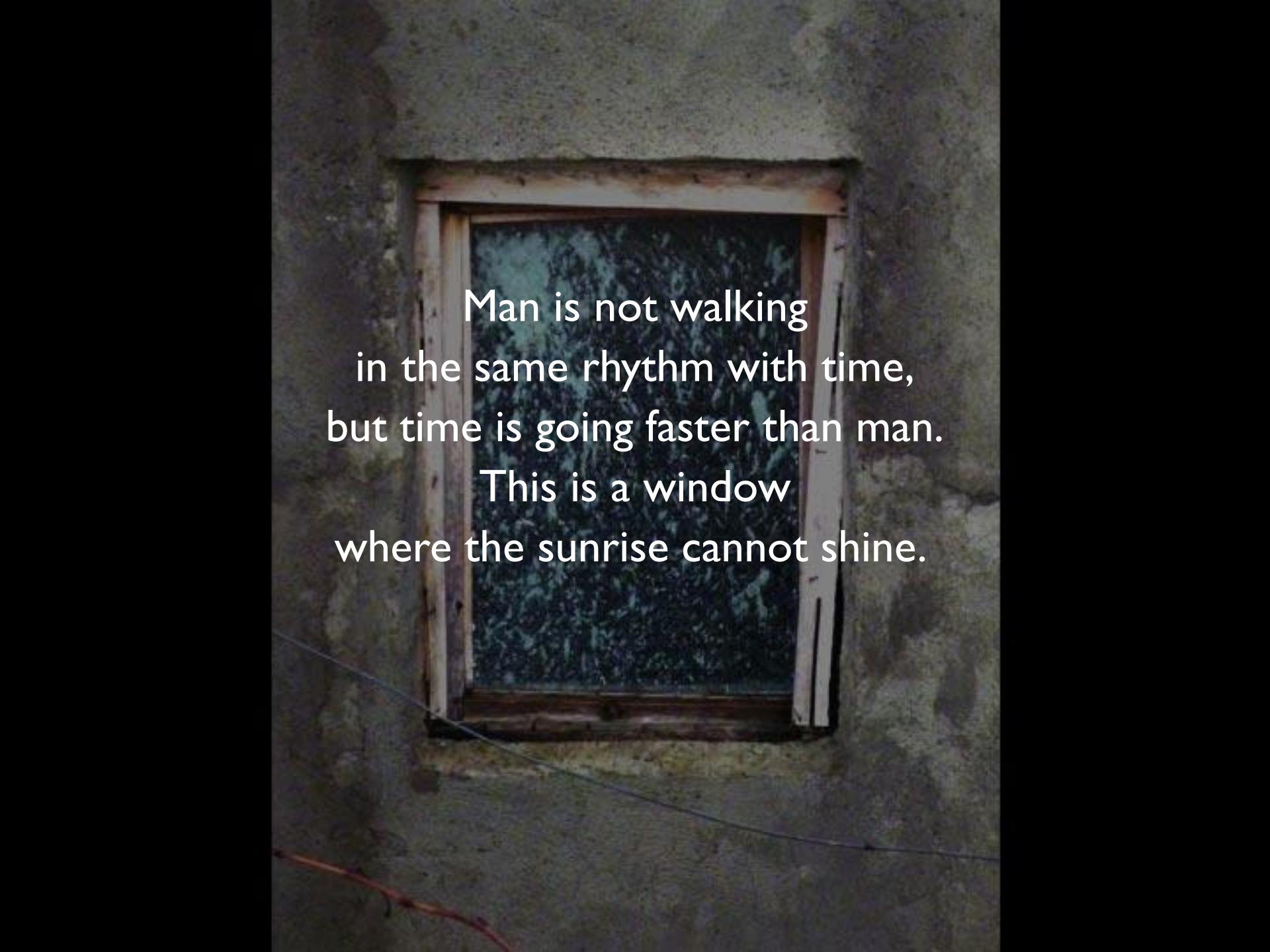




Plants are nice to look at and life-giving
but when their environment is polluted,
they're not beautiful anymore
and are dangerous for our health.






A photograph of a small, square window set into a rough, grey, textured wall. The window frame is made of weathered wood. The glass is dark and reflects some light, but the view outside is obscured by darkness and reflections. A thin wire runs diagonally across the lower part of the image. The text is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Man is not walking
in the same rhythm with time,
but time is going faster than man.

This is a window
where the sunrise cannot shine.



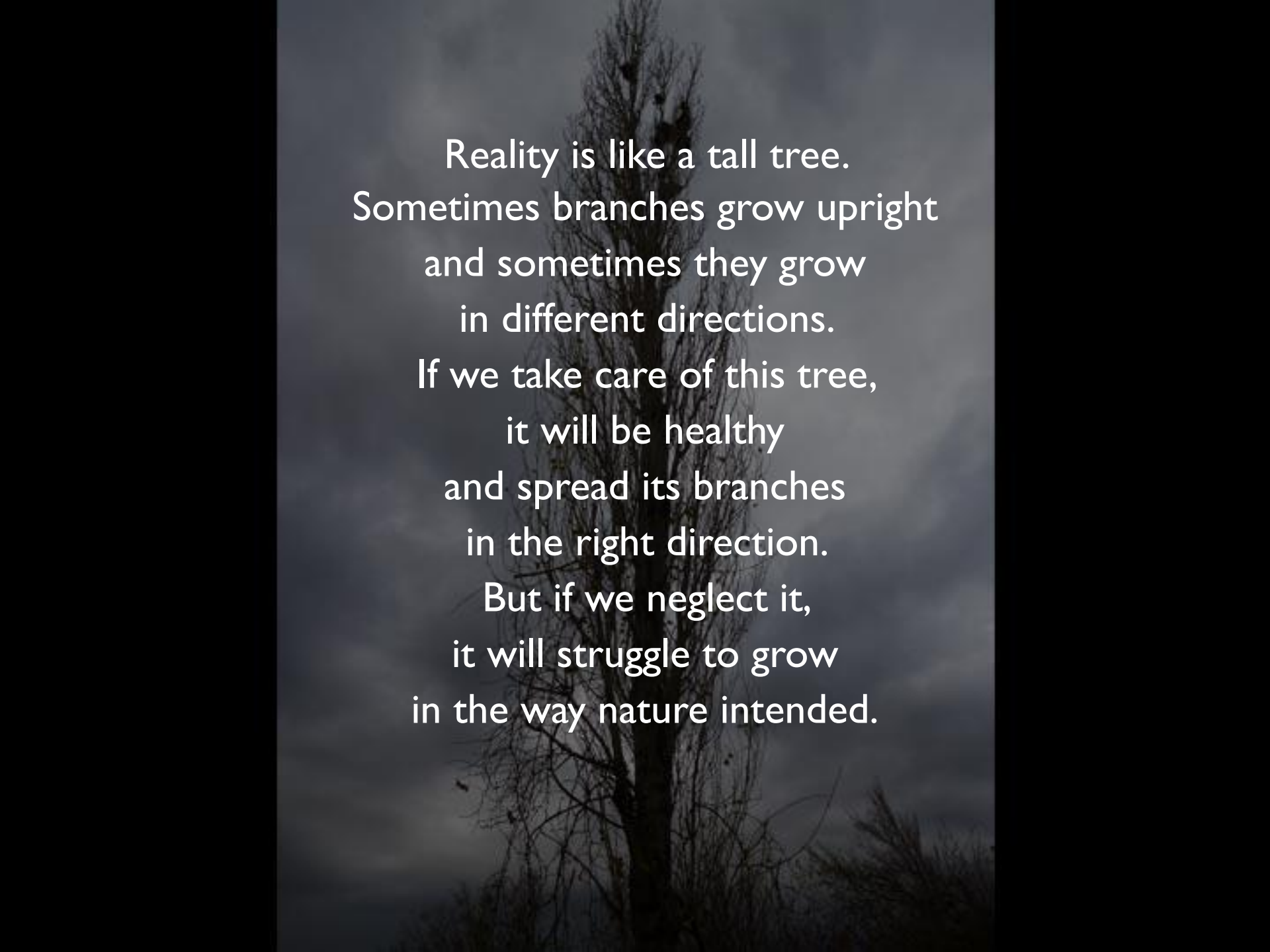




Progress is the only way to change this reality.
We must transform our situation day by day
and make it better for all of us.






A tall, bare tree stands against a cloudy sky. The tree's branches are thin and dark, reaching upwards. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

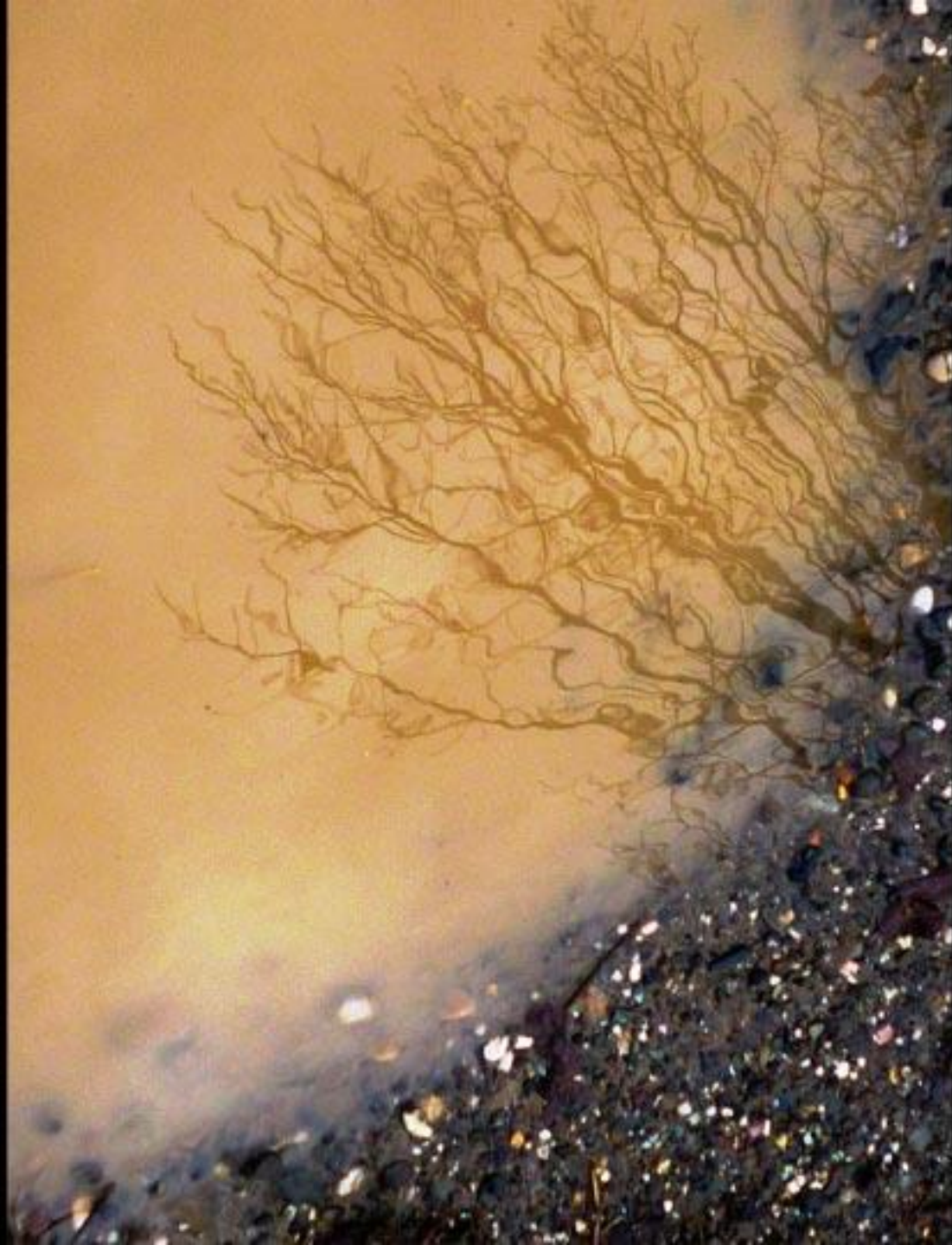
Reality is like a tall tree.
Sometimes branches grow upright
and sometimes they grow
in different directions.
If we take care of this tree,
it will be healthy
and spread its branches
in the right direction.
But if we neglect it,
it will struggle to grow
in the way nature intended.



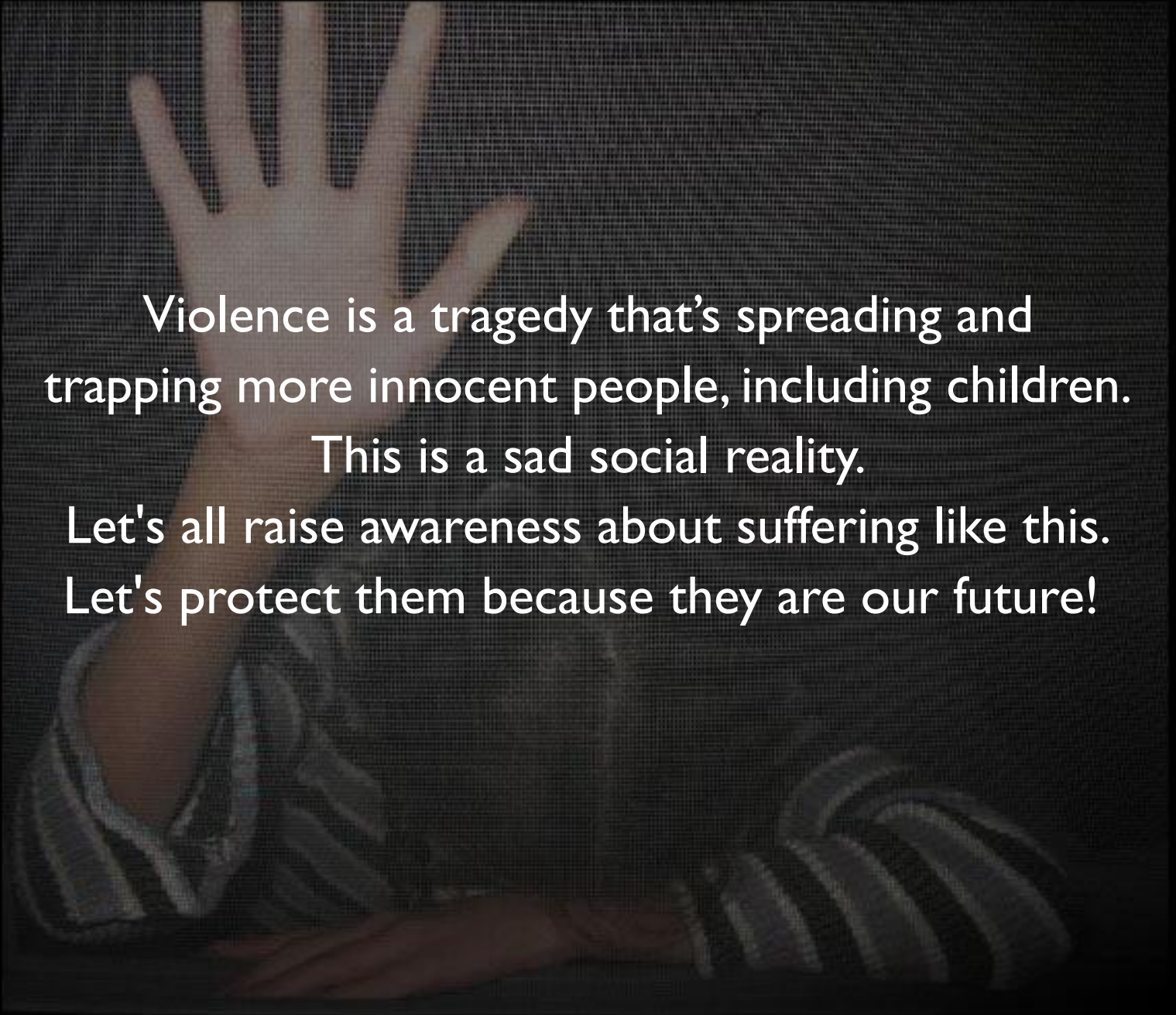


The background of the slide is a photograph of a body of water that appears to be polluted. The water is a murky, brownish-yellow color. In the foreground, there is a dark, rocky shoreline with some small, light-colored pebbles and debris. The overall tone of the image is somber and environmental.

Bad infrastructure and pollution
affect our lives
and damage our future.
It is our obligation as citizens
to protect our environment.





A person's hand is raised with fingers spread, palm facing forward, in a universal 'stop' gesture. The hand is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the frame. The background is dark and has a fine, grid-like texture. The overall lighting is dim, with the hand being the primary light source in the scene.

Violence is a tragedy that's spreading and trapping more innocent people, including children.


This is a sad social reality.

Let's all raise awareness about suffering like this.

Let's protect them because they are our future!








Sometimes the sun is covered by clouds,
just as our lives are sometimes covered
by sadness and everyday concerns.
We have to admit these concerns
then overcome them as much as we can.








We are voicing our rights,
but are we doing it through broken glass?
It doesn't have to be this way...







Children's hands ... innocent hands.
These are the hands that may build a brighter future.



The Photo Advocacy Project started in December 2011 when World Vision created a photography group for teenagers. It was an innovative and creative way for them to raise awareness in their community about different topics including: pollution, child rights, poverty, child exploitation, the desire to have a better future, and the need for a clean environment.

After creating the working group, the participants took control of almost everything; they planned the meetings and organised how to make the project work. They even chose the topics on which to raise awareness. The main topic was Regress or Progress: Where is our society going?

The 12 participants broke into groups of three to take photos. From many photos they selected only the best and explained the meaning of each one with their own captions.

The final step was organising an exhibition in the palace of culture in Lezha in February 2012. They invited lots of people including their teachers, the director of their school, people from the community, and the media. The teenagers felt proud of their work and appreciated the feedback from guests about their positive community initiative.

Through the experience, participants learned how to advocate for negative issues and how to help the community react through their photos.

After the project finished, the participants didn't stop advocating. They joined another programme, called Safe and Secure, promoting children's right to care and protection. They participated in several training sessions about the new initiative and now their goal is to raise children's voices for child protection and the promotion of child rights.

World Vision Global Education
Private Bag 92078, Auckland
0800 800 776

www.worldvision.org.nz

© World Vision New Zealand
Credit all photos World Vision

