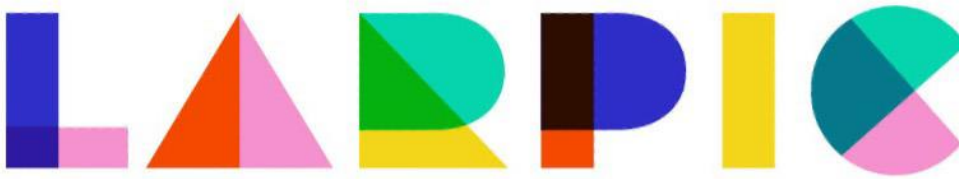
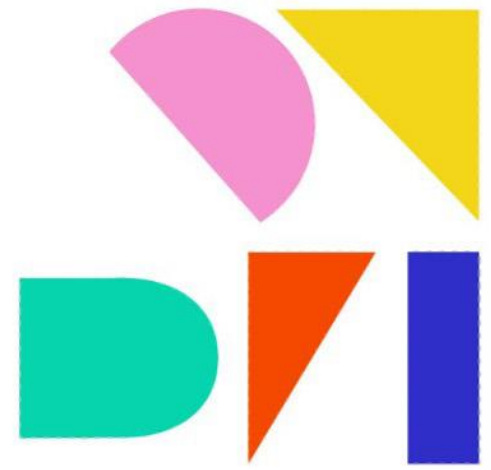




Co-funded by  
the European Union



Project Number: 2022-1-BG01-KA220-SCH-000085665



**Live Action Role  
Play to Increase  
Youth Active  
Citizenship**

# WP2 Live Action Role Play Citizens



203. Профилирана езикова гимназия "Свети Методий"



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

## Table of Contents

<i>Table of Contents</i>	2
<i>Welcome to LARP Shadow City</i>	3
<i>Game Instructions: Shadow City Larp</i>	7
<i>Preparation before the game</i>	16
<i>Ecology article - Ecological disasters in our city: Nature in danger</i>	18
<i>Players' characters</i>	20
<i>Politics article: Urban Intrigues: Corruption and political influence on life in the Shadow City</i>	31
<i>Poverty article: Obstacles on the Map of Solidarity: Fighting Poverty in the Urban Labyrinth</i>	33
<i>Public space article: Public space in the aftermath of controversial decisions</i>	35
<i>Refugees article: Refugees in the Shadow of Urban Changes: The Fight for Integration and Support</i>	37
<i>Women's rights article: Violation of Women's Rights in the City – A Shadow in a Seemingly Clear Sky</i>	39
<i>Chance cards</i>	41
<i>Interviews</i>	45
<i>List of witnesses for players</i>	76
<i>List of witnesses with passwords</i>	83
<i>Ancient parchment</i>	90
<i>Tasks for players</i>	91
<i>Tasks for players instructions for teachers</i>	92



## Welcome to LARP Shadow City

*All game instructions can be found in the **Step\_0 Game instruction.doc** file. Please read this file carefully and print it (or have it available online for the game). This file is your guide for running the game. It also contains instructions for the game, including the expected timeline, the texts you will read to the players at different stages of the game, etc.*

DO NOT LEAVE GAME INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN REACH OF PLAYERS.

*To prepare the game, use the file **Step\_0 Preparation of the game.doc**. In this file, you have information about what to prepare for each step of the game. Inside you will find which files need to be printed and how many you may need, etc.*

*Enjoy the game :)*

### SHADOW CITY LARP

**Game environment:** Shadow City, where women's rights are violated, and the environment is polluted. The city also deals with corruption in politics, migration, use of public spaces, and social poverty.

**Number of players:** 8-36

**Duration:** 4-6 hours

**Background of the story:** The inhabitants of the city are plagued by corruption, environmental pollution, mistreatment of women's rights, and other ills. Will the citizens of the town rise up and do something about it?



**The story:** A well-known journalist suddenly disappears, but just before he manages to send a message to you (the game master). In the message, he describes the cases he has recently investigated (focusing on ecology, women's rights, municipal politics, social poverty, the use of public spaces, and migration) and asks for your help. And not just any kind. Get the public on his side, analyse the information he found out from witnesses to the events, find out who is behind all the chaos in the city, and stop him. That is the task for the participants of the game. If they can get the majority of the public on their side and solve at least two of the problems in the city of their choice, they win the game.

### **Characteristics:**

- A strategic LARP for teams that takes place in the classroom and school premises. The whole game is aimed at raising awareness of civic engagement.
- After receiving information from a journalist asking for help, players must involve the general public, analyse interviews with witnesses to various events that happened in the city, find out who is pulling the strings in the city, and put a stop to it.
- Overcoming all obstacles and making the most of them requires the cooperation of every team member, communication, creativity, and strategy.
- All players work on solving the plot of the game and try to expose the perpetrator.
- Shadow City has a population of 300,000 inhabitants. If the players get 50,000 of them as supporters, they will get public opinion on their side, therefore they will be able to start changing things in the city, and they will win the game.

### **Your role as a teacher:**

During the game, you and your students will become residents of the fictitious city "Shadow City". You will still be their teacher and they will be your students, but they will each play one character (listed on the character card they each receive). Your character doesn't have a specific background, you can improvise as you wish (if you want :). The only thing that matters about your character is that you have a friend who is a well-known local crime-fighting journalist who recently disappeared.

You are the master of the game. You guide the player through the story, you determine the time of the individual parts of the game, and you decide on the score that the players will receive at the given moments. You also lead a reflection that takes place after each part of the game.

### **The structure of the game**

The game consists of 4 game parts and 3 reflections.



1. Introduction to the game
2. Civic activities
3. Reflection no.1
4. Sponsor
5. Reflection no.2
6. Investigation
7. Reflection no.3
8. Finding the key to the city
9. Final reflection

ad 1) Presentation of the game – you introduce the game to the students, introduce them to the story of the game, get them excited about helping your journalist friend, and give them their characters.

ad 2) Civic activities – This part aims to get the public on their side. To do this, you should inform the citizens about what is happening and gain their supporters. First, you will brainstorm with the students about what activities can be used to raise awareness of the topic. Second, it will be their job to create some of them to get supporters, and third, you will evaluate their work by letting them know how many supporters they have gotten.

ad 3) Reflection No. 1 - you will lead a short discussion so that the students think about the previous part of the game, how it went, what went well, what could have been done differently, etc.

ad 4) Sponsor - this part aims to identify individual problems in the city and evaluate the difficulty of solving them. That will be the task of the players. At the same time, all players as a whole must agree on one of the problems, which will be solved thanks to the sponsor.

ad 5) Reflection No. 2 - you will lead a short discussion in which the students reflect on the previous part of the game, how it went, what went well, what could have been done differently, etc.

ad 6) Investigation - 6 months have passed. You've already brought attention to what's going on in the city, and now your task is to uncover who's behind it. It turns out that only one person is behind everything, and the task is to reveal his true name. The journalist has already interviewed several witnesses and has password-locked his notes for security reasons. Each password can be revealed by



solving a puzzle. Once the students have solved the puzzle, you will give them the transcript of the corresponding interview. Their task is to analyse the interviews and then reveal the name of the Lord of the Shadows.

and 7) Reflection No. 2 - you will lead a short discussion in which the students reflect on the previous part of the game, how it went, what went well, what could have been done differently, etc.

Ad 8) Finding the Key to the City - Now that you've found out who the Lord of the Shadows is, it's time to fight him. According to the old parchment your journalist friend sent you, there is an imaginary key to the city (influence, money, and public opinion). Players are given a list of tasks, thanks to which they can "earn" points of influence, money, and public opinion, and decide which problems in the city they will solve with these points. This will end the game (1 problem will be solved in the sponsor section and at least one other problem will be solved by them to fulfil the victory condition)

Ad9) Final Reflection - In this final discussion, you will lead the students to reflect briefly on the previous part of the game (as in discussions 1 and 2) and especially on what they took from the civic activities and what impact they can have. The goal is for them to leave this experience with the feeling that participation in public life is meaningful and that a person can make a difference with their actions.



## Game Instructions: Shadow City Larp

### Step one 1: Game intro: (15 min)

#### Retell:

Dear students,

today we will move to another city. I will still be the teacher, you will be the students, but each of us will step into the role of someone else. We will become citizens of Shadow City. My name is "Monica" and I am your literature teacher. In our city at the moment, we mainly deal with six topics – ecology, migration, poverty, politics, public space, and women's rights. So, divide into groups of 4-6 players and choose/draw the topic that your group will focus on.

*Now divide the players into groups so that there are 4-6 players in each group. The maximum number of players is 36, i.e. 6 groups. For the game to be playable, it is necessary to occupy at least two groups (that is, at least 8 players). Each group chooses/draws one of the six topics (ecology, migration, poverty, politics, public space, women's rights). Each group must have a different topic to solve (e.g. there can't be 2x ecology). According to the drawn topics, distribute the appropriate character cards to each group and let the players each choose which character they will represent and familiarise themselves with it.*

#### Retell:

Five years ago, I met George Jones. George has been writing articles for the local Shadow Times newspaper for many years. His articles are mainly focused on how people live in our city and what could be improved. I was very interested because I am not indifferent to the situation in our city either.

George wrote about corruption in politics, women's rights, environmental pollution, as well as poverty, and the widening gap between rich and poor. This made him many enemies, but he

persevered in his work. He always believed that the state of the city can be influenced primarily by its citizens.

We had a meeting at the cafe the Sunday before last, but George didn't show up. I tried to call him but his cell phone is still switched off and his wife doesn't know where he is either. The approach of the police was very strange. They said he would show up, nothing to worry about, but I felt like they weren't looking for him at all. Instead, a few days later I received a message that convinced me something was wrong.

I will now play you the message:

**Play video George01.MOV:**

*In case you can't play the video, read the message:*

*Hi,*

*I am in a trap. I feel like someone is always watching me. It's like eyes are staring at me from every shadow, but when I get closer, there's nothing there. Maybe I'm getting paranoid, but I'd rather disappear for a while. Someone is after me and I assume it has to do with the cases I write about.*

*That's why I'm sending them all to you and please don't leave them on ice. Citizens need to know what is happening in our city and do something about it. If at all possible, please see to it that they are investigated and that the townspeople know about them. If you can get at least 50,000 townspeople on your side, the public will stand behind us and we can do something about it. I'll get back to you when that happens. Do not contact the police at any cost, I do not trust them any more than our municipal politicians.*

*Thank you very much and I hope to see you again soon.*

*George*

**Retell:**

What do you think about it? Can we help improve the life in our city? Can we help Georg finish the cases left lying around?

I have unfinished articles that George sent. Each one relates to one of the topics that we deal with in our city.





*Distribute the articles to the groups according to their topics and have the players read them.*

## **Step 2: Civic activities (35 min)**

**a)**

Brainstorm together on the topic of civic engagement. What civic activities can be done and what groups can people join to have a stronger voice in the public space? Write the students' suggestions on the board. (15 min)

*e.g. establish an association, become a volunteer in an existing association, participate in demonstrations and other protest actions, organise demonstrations and other protest actions, information campaign - media, social media, leaflets, advertisements, posters..., write emails to responsible politicians, participate in elections, organise lectures or debates, ... etc.*

**b)**

### Activity 1:

Each group of players will try to gain public support for a topic that concerns them (ecology/women's rights /...). Each group will form an association / a non-governmental organisation / any legal entity of their choice. Each group then presents the name of its subject and its purpose. **(15 min)**

### The scoring of Activity 1:

After the presentations, you should evaluate how well each organisation's idea relates to the topic of each article and how likely the association is to have an impact on the topic.

Based on your judgement, rate each group's idea by assigning followers and inform them that their entity's purpose already resonates with citizens and has gained followers. Assign any number between 5,000 and 15,000. Write the team's score on the board.

### Activity 2:

Each group is tasked with coming up with three or more civic activities that their entity can do to gain more supporters. The group must also state how would they proceed in their implementation.

Now we proceed to the presentation of ideas. Each group always presents one idea, and you score the idea (see the scoring system below). All the groups alternate one after the other. After each



group presents one idea, reveal one **chance card** and mark its score effect on the board. Continue presenting other ideas in the same way until all groups have the required 50,000 followers. So, there will be at least three rounds of presentations. If one of the groups does not get 50,000 followers within three rounds, they can present another idea(s). **(40 min)**

### The scoring of Activity 2:

Based on the impact you think each proposed activity will have (considering how well the group envisions its implementation), rate each activity with 5,000 - 15,000 followers. Write the score on the board.

### **Step 3: Reflection (5 min)**

Lead a short discussion to get students to reflect on the previous part of the game.

Here are some questions you can ask them:

- How was it for you?
- How did you do in the team?
- What do you think you did well?
- What helped your group to work together successfully?
- What could you have done differently?
- What would help you get more followers?
- What do you take away from how you can get involved in the city?
- Which civic activity had the greatest impact?
- What do you take with you that could help you further in the game?
- What could you do in your city?

### **Step 4: Sponsor (15 min)**

#### Activity 3:

a) Give each group one problem card. The task of each group is to identify within their topic the problems in the city that they will solve as an organisation (minimum of five problems per group).



Individual problems can be identified by players from the article or the stories of their characters. If players suggest other issues, you may/may not include them in the list at your discretion.

b) Now each group rates each of the problems on a scale of 1-5 according to how difficult it is to change the problem and records its difficulty on the problem card by circling the appropriate number of circles.

1 - individual problem

2 - interest group problem

3 - the problem affects a significant part of the population, it concerns urban development, and they need the support of the authorities to solve it.

4 - the problem affects the whole city

5 - the problem affects the whole city and to solve it they need to influence public opinion.

c) **Retell:** Elon Musk passed through our town, and he liked it so much that he decided to help the town. So he challenged us to pick one of all the problems, that the city is dealing with, that he would personally take care of solving. Which one will it be?

**Task:** Challenge the players to get all groups to agree on one problem that we will leave to Elon Musk.

### **Step 5: Reflection (5 min)**

Lead a short discussion to get students to reflect on the previous part of the game.

Here are some questions you can ask them:

- How hard is it to change?
- What determines whether something can be changed or not?
- What does it take to change things in the city?
- What's happening? Do the cases have any common features?
- How can it be that there are so many things going on here at once?

### **Step 6: Investigation (25 min)**

#### **Retell:**

Six months have passed since we started helping George with the investigation. We have gained XXX (the result of Step 2) supporters, so our voice is heard. And I got a new message from George.



I will now play you the message:

### Play video George02.MOV:

*In case you can't play the video, read the message:*

*Hi,*

*you and your students are great. I have to say that your voice is being heard and now no one will take you lightly or intimidate you like me. I am sending you a list of the witnesses I interviewed for each case and the transcripts of their interviews. By analysing them, you should be able to find out who is behind it all. I have one tip myself, but I do not dare to say it publicly. If I'm right and your search matches mine, send me the person's name on my cell phone and I'll send you the latest information I have. I hope it helps you to save our city. I hid every contact behind a password because I was afraid someone might hack into my computer. But I'm sure you can handle it.*

*Good luck,*

*George*

### Activity 4

Provide the players with a list of witnesses and puzzles to solve (Step\_6 Witness list with tasks.doc). It depends on the players how they decide to organise. They can stay in the original groups or split up differently. Groups can work together but don't actively encourage them to do so.

When someone solves a puzzle, they come to you, and if the answer is correct, you give them the appropriate interview. It is up to them which interviews (respectively puzzles) they choose or how many they do.

By analysing the conversations, they should get the name of the Lord of the Shadows. Once the whole group agrees on a name, pretend to send a text message, and wait for a reply. If they guessed the name **Lucas Freedom**, you let them know that George texted: "Correct. I'm sending another



message." and this activity is completed successfully! If they guessed otherwise, they should continue analysing the conversations until they reveal the correct name. **(15 min)**

### **Step 7: Reflection (5 min)**

Lead a short discussion to get students to reflect on the previous part of the game.

Here are some questions you can ask them:

- How did you like this activity?
- What do you think you did well?
- What helped your group to work together successfully?
- What could you have done differently?
- How did you manage to work together as a group? How did it affect the course of the investigation?
- What do you take with you that could help you further in the game?
- Why didn't you share the result with others?
- What would it bring you to share the result with others?
- Where do you see this situation in your city?
- Now we know who it is, have we won?
- How hard is it to change?

### **Step 8: Finding the key to the city (70 min)**

#### **Retell:**

HA, I just got a message from George.

I will play you the message now:

#### **Play video George03.MOV:**

*In case you can't play the video, read the message:*



Hi,

*I'm glad we all came to the same conclusion that Lucas Freedom is behind everything that is happening in our city.*

*I am sending you the latest information I have gathered on our case. I found an old document in the archives that Robert Ford mentioned in his interview. It suggests that there is a key to our city. I do not dare to try it myself, so I am sending you a copy of it.*

*As Hellen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."*

*Thank you, very much and good luck!*

*George*

#### Activity 5:

- a) Read the parchment about the city key to the players. In this part of the game, players act together (they are not divided into groups). Make sure the players understand that the key to the city is money, influence, and public opinion.
- b) Various activities can be done to gain money, influence, and public opinion. In our city, for example, the following:
- c) Distribute the document Step\_8 Tasks for players.doc to the players, according to which they will perform tasks to gain money, influence, or followers. Inform the players how much time they must complete the tasks and that the completion of the tasks will be evaluated at the end when everyone meets again.
- d) While the players are completing the tasks, rewrite the problems on the board from the problem cards of all groups, including the points that the players have assigned to them.
- e) After the time limit has passed, evaluate the completion of individual tasks, and for each completed task, transfer points of influence/money/followers according to the instructions in the file Step\_8 Tasks instructions.doc. Points are represented by coloured stickers that you give them.
- f) Invite the players to agree together on which problems they will solve using the points of influence/money/followers. The players must not only agree on the problems but also figure out which points (money/influence/followers) can be used to solve the problem. Once they have agreed, they present their solutions at the list of problems on the board (your transcript) where they must justify to you why they used these specific points to solve the problem (e.g. 2x points of money + 1x point of influence, so they don't need to solve this particular problem with public opinion - followers). If they defend the result, mark the problem on the board as solved.



At the end of this activity, emphasise how many problems were solved, praise the players for a great job, and clap together.

### **Step 9: Reflection (10 min)**

The first part of the reflection: Ask the group to think about the next step they would take.

- Now you know how to gain power over most of the city. What will you do with it? How will you be different from the Lord of the Shadows?
- How would you reveal the Lord of the Shadows to the public?
- How difficult was it to choose the problems you solved?

The second part of the debrief: Transferring knowledge from the game to real life.

- How was the game for you? What did you like and what didn't you like?
- What did you take away about civic engagement? What is needed for a person to be able to influence something, to change it?
- What have you learned about collaboration?
- What made you succeed?
- What was important?
- What worked and what didn't?
- Where in your real life can you apply what you learned in the game?
- What thing (in your city) is close to you and how can you positively influence events in this area?
- In Shadow City, it turned out like this, and what about in your city?
- What do you take away from our shared experience, how can things be changed in the city?

### **The end of the game**

## Preparation before the game

1. Print and read game instructions: file Step\_0 Game instructions.doc
2. Prepare the documents and props for the individual steps of the game:
  - Step 1:
    - Print 6x file Step\_1 Article ecology
    - Print 6x file Step\_1 Article women rights
    - Print 6x file Step\_1 Article public space
    - Print 6x file Step\_1 Article poverty
    - Print 6x file Step\_1 Article politics
    - Print 6x file Step\_1 Article refugees
    - Print 1x file Step\_1 Player characters and cut them so that you can give each player one character.
  - Step 2:
    - Print 1x file Step\_2 Coincidence cards and cut and fold to draw random cards from these six cards
    - Prepare a board for writing the number of followers
  - Step 4:
    - Print 5x file Step\_6 List of witnesses and puzzles
    - Print 5x file Step\_6 Witness interviews
    - Print 1x file Step\_6 List of witnesses with passwords (for you only)
  - Step 6:
    - Print 1x file Step\_8 Old parchment
    - Print 12x file Step\_8 Tasks for players
    - Prepare lots of skewers, paper tape and 2 eggs







Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Ecology article - Ecological disasters in our city: Nature in danger

Our city, long considered an oasis of nature and sustainability, is now facing serious environmental disasters that seriously threaten our environment. These events have far-reaching impacts on the local community and remind us of the urgent need to protect our planet.

### **1. Chemical accident – Detergents instead of water**

There was a recent chemical accident at a bus cleaning line operated by Ecolife, Inc. The crash was long predicted by Jason Donovan from the Earth People Association. This tragedy involves the release of cleaning detergents into our river, which has a catastrophic impact on our aquatic ecosystems.

### **2. Landfill Fire – Heatly under suspicion**

The landfill, which is owned by GreenSolutions, LLC, became the site of a massive fire. However, all the attention was received by the accusations of John Miller, the owner of the landfill, against Steven Heatly, who owns a competing company specialising in ecological waste disposal. However, this accusation is being questioned, as Heatly's company practises much more environmentally friendly methods of waste treatment.

### **3. Air pollution due to traffic jams and old buses**

Air pollution due to traffic jams and old buses

The city faces serious problems with air pollution caused by traffic jams in the city and the operation of old buses. One possible solution would be to switch to electric buses offered by GreenWheels, Inc. But the representative, Randy Houston, complains that the city shows no interest in their offer, even though it would greatly help our air.

### **4. Calamity in Central Park**

The area known as Central Park will become the site of a serious ecological calamity. There is a strong suspicion that the development company UrbanLand Development, Inc. plans to demolish part of the park and replace it with office buildings. This is fought against by environmental activist Michael Bird, who points to the connection of Robert King, the owner of UrbanLand Development, to the political scene and issues related to women's rights.



These environmental disasters and problems are urgent challenges for our city and highlight the need for better protection of our environment while being more transparent about business and political practices.

## Players' characters

### Ecology characters:

**Josef Feather, 18 years old:** You live in the city in an old apartment building. You have a dovecote with carrier pigeons on the roof of the house. It's your passion. Recently, those pigeons often die of diseases from a bad environment. So, you set out to find out what's going on in town. After all, you won't give up your passion and let all the pigeons go. The biggest polluter is the factory, which appears to be fraudulently buying emission allowances. It would help the city if the purchase of emission allowances was transparent and thanks to this the factory would adjust the emissions that it releases into the city.

**Miroslav Anchor, 20 years old:** You run a boat and pedal boat rental shop as a summer job. You have this part-time job every year, but recently you find that you have fewer and fewer customers. It will probably be the water that used to be clean, but its current smell discourages most people from sailing on the water. You will have to find out what can be done about it so that you don't have to close your summer business. It would help to take samples of the water in front of the city and behind the city and prove with laboratory tests that the pollution originates here in the city. However, there is no money for this, and the city does not want to deal with it.

**Andrea Chairman, 23 years old:** You are a young mother of sick Amalia. She is sensitive to dirty air. As soon as the air that she breathes is too polluted, she starts to suffocate and must be connected to breathing apparatus. There was a time when you could go out with Amalia, but that's practically impossible lately. Today you can't even open windows, you have to rely on air conditioning and air filters. You would so much like to go out with Amalia. So, you have to find out what's going on in town.

**Petra Hoe, 19 years old:** You have been taking care of a community garden on the outskirts of town for several years. You have built the entire garden from the ground up and it is currently used by a community of twenty families. It bothers you that the revenues from the garden are not what they used to be, and the taste of the vegetables is no longer the same. It is known that the community garden is not fenced, and some people go to the community garden like a supermarket, even though they do not contribute at all to growing vegetables and fruits. It would help to fence the garden, but the town hall, which originally promised the fence, completely gave up on it, saying that they would devote itself to other ecological projects.



**Michael Hook, 19 years old:** You are a passionate fisherman, and you like to fish even in the city. Unfortunately, the trout that you loved to hunt and eat have completely disappeared from the local waters. Only carp remain, which stick more to the bottom. Their meat can be eaten, but after the fish from the local river, your stomach hurts so much that you prefer not to eat or even catch them. You have to find out what happened here so you can fish again in the town where you once bought a lifetime permit.

**Lucas Bauer, 21 years old:** You cross-country ski and run in the city park during the year. Unfortunately, you learned that part of the park was sold by the city hall to a private company that is going to build an office building here. You don't like the gradual shrinking of grassy areas in the city, because it creates a concrete jungle that gets hot in the summer and it's hard to be in the city. The environment of the city suffers a lot from this, and you can't deal with it. What can you do about it?



### Women's rights characters:

**David Adamec, 19 years old:** Your father works as an accountant at the town hall. He was shocked when Jessica Brown was recalled from her office. He is convinced that she did not commit what they accused her of. He was one of the people who helped her fight the corruption that has been going on at City Hall for years. You trust her and her good intentions. Like all the members of the mayor's team, you are now afraid that your father will lose his job. Can something be done about it?

**Iveta Miller, 20 years old:** You are the right wing in the city's girls' soccer team. Last year you helped the team finish in second place and this season you had really good prospects for first place. All the girls on the team are working hard and are devastated that you might not be able to play this year because of the money! Something very suspicious is going on in town. You know your team isn't the only one struggling with sponsors. The situation is the same for the girls' boxing team and the basketball teams. None of the boys' teams seem to have problems with sponsors.

**Grace Gonzales, 19 years old:** You are the cousin of Samantha Gonzales, who was banned by her parents from going to the European Physics Championships in high school. You overheard your parents talking about it to each other. They said Samantha's parents have been acting strange lately. Samantha's mom gave up her university job to stay at home, got both of her girls signed up for cooking classes, and even though both girls are still underage, they often talk about the importance of girls finding good husbands and getting married young age. You would really like to help your cousin because you know how much the championship means to her. She tried so hard to achieve this. The winner of the European Championship will receive a full scholarship to Oxford University, which has been Samantha's lifelong dream, and her family would not be able to support her studying in a foreign country.

**Steve Josh, 18 years old:** Jasmine Josh, head of the Sustainable Economy Institute, is your mom. She used to be extremely popular in the local community, she led many meaningful projects, and she was always invited to local events and interviews. She is very frustrated because none of this seems to be happening anymore. She feels as if someone has silenced her public voice. It is very difficult for her to get her topics in the local papers. Not only is no one inviting her to events, but fewer and fewer people go to her events. The institute she founded could even be cancelled due to lack of impact, as it is mostly funded by public funds and the city hall told her that if she can't achieve the impact the institute promised last year, they won't give them the funds for the next one. Despite the enormous amount of work your mom puts into her work, there is no progress to be seen. Every day she comes home very sad and tired.



**Petra Kocmar, 21 years old:** you're a nerd and you're proud of it. You love computers, modern technology, and artificial intelligence, you love it all. You spend most of your free time at the "Girls in STEM" community centre. You feel like you're around family there. They understand you; they support you and you belong there. Before you started going to this centre, you tried a few other IT clubs, but you were often teased for being a girl, and you found the environment more competitive than supportive. You were devastated to learn that your beloved centre might be closing. You'll do anything to save it.



### Migration characters:

**Josef Happy, 16 years old:** You are interested in modern technology, your big hobby is graphic design. You befriended Igor, who ran away from the war in Ukraine with his mother. Igor is also very fond of technology, and everything related to new technologies, so you understand each other very well. Igor's mom worked for a while for her Ukrainian employer remotely, however, the company went bankrupt a few months ago and his mom needs to find a job here. She started attending Czech language courses organised by the city. Unfortunately, the city cancelled the courses and Igor's mother does not have enough funds to pay for private courses. Although she is an economics engineer, she is unable to find professional work in the city due to the language barrier. She started working as a cleaner, but the salary barely covers the rent and the most basic needs.

**Jane Pop, 17 years old:** You love music, and dancing, you are very creative and active. You founded your own dance group "Unité", with which you have already visited several countries in Europe. You lead a children's folklore dance club for the Support and Integration Centre. In the evenings, you sometimes help out in the cafe. Your goal is to save money to go study at Codarts, the University of Arts in Rotterdam. The children from your group were supposed to perform at an international folk-dance competition, which was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute, because the city decided to change the floors and heating in the hall where the competition was to take place, and it was not possible to find a new hall so quickly. You and the children were really looking forward to the competition and you are sorry that your six months of preparation went to waste like this. In addition, you learned that the club might not even take place next year, because the Centre will not have the money for it. You are sorry for the sake of the children and also because it will significantly limit your income and the chance to save enough money for your dream university.

**Lydie Kolar, 18 years old:** You like humanities subjects at school, you enjoy languages, you learn English and Spanish. You would like to travel through South America one day. Your best friend Carmen comes from Venezuela, where she ran away from more than ten years ago with her parents (both journalists) due to political repression. Their whole family speaks fluent Czech, their parents work for a local newspaper. Last week, when you and Carmen were walking from school, a group of classmates from the school next door shouted at you something about Carmen needing to come back, where she belongs, because she's going to suck up our social system, etc. Carmen told you that it's not the first time that something like that happened to her. Since negative news about migrants is often broadcast on television, she has already heard several similar comments. What's worse, it looks like the newspaper where her parents work has changed management, and it looks like they might both lose their jobs.





**Mustafa Öztürk, 18 years old:** You were born in the Czech Republic, and your parents are from Turkey. They once came to the Czech Republic to study and have already stayed here. You like sports, you are the captain of the volleyball team, you enjoy working with children - you have been running summer sports camps at the Support and Integration Centre for three years and would like to become a sports coach.

Last month, a discussion was held in your street organised by the new non-profit organisation "Protection of Home". Your class was cancelled, so you went to look there and you couldn't believe your eyes or ears. The speakers explained that because of migrants, there is not enough work for Czech citizens, that they represent a burden on the Czech social and health system, that with a larger number of migrants the risk of terrorist attacks increases, and it was even said that there is a need to defend the rights of white heterosexual men who are now being neglected and that we do not want to die out as a nation.

Last week, it was discussed at volleyball that the main sponsor of the team does not want to support the team in the next season because they do not like that the captain is not a real Czech.

**Olamide Okonkwo, 18 years old:** You are from the north-east of Nigeria, you, your parents, and three sisters ran away from there about a year ago, due to the unstable political situation, frequent attacks by terrorist groups, and insecure access to education for girls. You enjoy science subjects, and you would like to become a doctor and one day return to Nigeria to help. You are very grateful for the warm welcome you received upon arrival, especially the Support and Integration Centre helped your family a lot. Dad is a lawyer and had a very successful law firm in Nigeria for 15 years. Mom was at home in Nigeria, taking care of you, your sisters, and your sick grandmother. After your grandmother's death, you decided to leave Nigeria. Since English is the official language in Nigeria, it was not difficult for you to find friends, and thanks to them, you can communicate in Czech quite well after a year. Due to the language barrier and the difference in the legislative systems, your father has not yet found a professional job and works in a foundry. Your mother sometimes babysits the children in several neighbouring families. Both parents attended Czech language courses organised by the city to have the opportunity to participate in the community and find a better job. Cancelling courses for you means getting paid private courses for both parents. To help your family, you are thinking that you will not start studying medicine next year, but you will find a job and support your family financially so that your parents have the opportunity to learn Czech and then find a better job.

**Marek Šindelář, 17 years old:** You like languages, travelling, and learning about new cultures. You speak English, and French and are starting to learn Portuguese. You are considering studying ethnology or cultural studies at university. Your cousin, who has just graduated from secondary vocational health school and is looking for a job in the field, recently told you about the newly



established organisation Protection of Home, for which he started volunteering, and invited you to their meeting. Their goal is to protect our citizens, increase security in the city, increase access to work for city residents, and protect the culture and traditions of our country, and that's why he remembered you if you're interested. But you were a little taken aback that he often mentioned "our" citizens, "our" culture, which made you wonder if it wasn't a bit racist. The cousin, with the words that you are also one of them, slammed the phone and stopped talking with you. You have also noticed that recently various cultures and ethnicities are presented negatively in the media, and false or distorted information is given about the political or economic situation in the countries from which people most often run away. You don't understand what's going on, why there is suddenly "them" and "us" and you're trying to figure it out.

### **Poverty characters:**

**Andrew Liss, 20 years old:** You are a young businessman. You finished school a year ago and took over your father's business. Your father is a famous city carpenter who loves his craft. He is now retired and helping you. Carpentry has always prospered because people respected it for its quality work. Although your father was not always busy, when there was nothing else to do, he made a living by going around the surrounding villages and offering his products. You took over your father's business during hard times. The price of wood rose significantly, and you were forced to increase the price of manufactured furniture. Employees left the company and one of them even opened a competing business in the city. This affected you and your father in a very personal way. You were experiencing a drop in customers and were forced to lay off several employees because you didn't have the money to pay them. Overnight your company stopped taking orders. Customers who had contracted products simply called one day to cancel their order. You had to answer up to 10 phone calls in one day. You're in big trouble. How do you want to make a living?

**Sandra Brick, 19 years old:** You're an ordinary high school girl who enjoys learning. You like to learn new things, collect useful information, and let yourself be fascinated by the beauty of knowledge. You are currently in your senior year and would like to go to university. You have your entrance exams in a few months, and you are studying hard for them. Unfortunately, your family is not one of the wealthiest, so you are dependent on the scholarship that the school provides to those who need it. However, you recently found out that the school stopped providing scholarships. The reason given by the university was that "only those who can afford it will be supported. Not having the money to go to school also says not having the ability to go to school." You are horrified and unhappy at the same time. What will you do? You want to study, learn more, go for a doctorate, and work as a scientist. And now?

**Luke Stone, 17 years old:** You're an accomplished violinist. You've been playing the violin since you were a kid and you're great. You go to a city art school where you have a teacher who brings out the



best in you. He drives you to competitions all over the country and under his guidance you win first prizes. One day, however, the teacher gives you the sad news that he has to leave the school for personal reasons. You ask him why, after all, the teacher has no family and has everything in this town. But the teacher didn't want to say more. One day you meet in the park on a bench, you sit next to him and ask him again why he leaves you in the hands of incompetent art schoolteachers. The teacher's answer will shock you: "That's because they fired me. They say they don't have the money to pay for me and my class anymore. I don't understand because this is the most prosperous art school in the whole county. But it's true. I can't afford to live here and rent my own classroom. So, I have to go somewhere where I can make a living. And that's a long way away." You cannot process this information for a long time. Now you're going to stagnate because your teacher got fired and you can't afford to pay for a room in this town by yourself? You want to be a world-class virtuoso. How will you manage without him, the best teacher in all the land?

**Jasmine Hawthorn, 20 years old:** You are a 20-year-old medical student. Your mission is to heal those who cannot afford it. This mission is based on your personal experience. You have been working as a volunteer in your city for many years. You organise fundraisers, the proceeds of which are donated to disadvantaged families in your city. So, you organised several concerts, Soup for All, Family Day, and so on. For the last few years, you have also been volunteering in fieldwork, which means that as a paramedic you go to the outskirts of the city and help where needed. There you see how quickly the socio-economic situation of people from these areas deteriorates. It breaks your heart because you care about these people. So, you decided to go study medicine and use your knowledge to contribute to the care of people who can't afford it. But after all, medicine costs something. How to solve this problem?

**Rick Blair, 19 years old:** You are very into technology and are interested in all technological news and advancements. You get together with a classmate and a friend every week to code and try new things. You usually meet at your house because you have better equipment than your friend Martin. Martin comes from a more modest background, which is why his parents are unable to provide him with new and expensive technological equipment. But you don't mind, you are happy to have someone in the room to use your old computer because you have a new one. You take digital technology classes together at school. There you learn to code, design digital environments, and so on. However, the teacher tells you in one lesson that the school will no longer be able to lend you computers and tablets. If you want to continue the course, you must purchase your own device. Martin is sad because he knows he cannot continue the course. You are very angry because you know what a great talent Martin has and now, he can't use it. Can money really stop a young person from developing their talent?

**Amanda Cook, 20 years old:** you are an excellent painter who has been drawing, making, inventing, and having a passion for beautiful and colourful things since you were young. Art has always fascinated you, so your parents decided to support your passion by sending you to an art high school



in the city. This school helped you develop your talent. After finishing school, you get a job as an accountant in a company. Although you wanted to work in a studio, paint, teach painting, and create, your family's economic situation, which worsened year by year, did not allow you to live the painter's dream. You saw how much your parents supported you, but due to their lower and lower income, you couldn't continue your dream. So, you took a job as an accountant in a company to ensure a decent life for yourself and your parents. Yet you still wonder if you will ever return to your dream of painting.

### Politics characters

**Maya Torres, 20 years old:** You're a history buff, high-spirited, and tenacious when it comes to preserving cultural heritage. You have always been fascinated by stories from the past and often spend your weekends exploring museums and ancient sites with your grandfather. Your relationship to urban heritage is deeply rooted in family history. Your grandparents were local artisans, known for the arts and crafts that made the town famous. When news broke that commercial development was encroaching on the landmarks that formed the structure of the city as well as your identity, your heart sank. The harsh reality of politicians who prioritise profit over heritage has lit a fire in you. When you witnessed the identity of your beloved city being overshadowed by commerce, you knew you had to act.

**Alex Nguyen, 18 years old:** You are an aspiring journalist, fiercely curious, and a deep believer in the power of truth. You grew up in a political environment and were exposed to the tangled web of elections and governance from an early age. Your parents, activists dedicated to transparency and justice, instilled in you the importance of promoting democratic values. You often find comfort in news articles and documentaries that deal with the complexities of political systems. Your curiosity eventually led you to an interest in investigative journalism, which you are pursuing even while studying in high school to uncover hidden truths and injustices. When you witnessed the surprising disparity between a candidate's huge popularity and his shockingly low number of votes in the election, it made you very angry. The glaring evidence of election rigging was not only a betrayal of democracy but also a personal affront to everything you held dear. How can all the grown-up citizens of the town miss this? Or are they not willing to fight for truth and freedom?

**Liam Thompson, 19 years old:** you are an architecture student and urban planning enthusiast who deeply values the harmony between the city and nature. You grew up surrounded by the bustling energy of your city and were fascinated by the delicate balance that urban spaces maintained with greenery and community interaction. Your architecturally oriented childhood sketches were often cityscapes that seamlessly integrated parks, gardens, and open spaces. Your parents, both urban activists, fuelled your passion for sustainable urban planning and the potential for cities to thrive without compromising their natural essence. When news broke of city-wide development projects that threatened to reshape the urban landscape, building skyscrapers and factories, your heart sank.



The once vibrant community spaces that were the heart of the city have given way to imposing skyscrapers and concrete expanses. The politics of profit was erasing the very essence that made your city special. But what can you do as a single student against the city management? Can something be done after all?

**Sofia Martinez, 17:** You are a high school student preparing for high school finals and college admissions. Surrounded by the charm of cobbled streets, local markets, and parks, you grew up with an unwavering love for the unique character that defines your hometown. As a child, you often joined your parents in cleaning up and planting trees, cementing your commitment to preserving the city's identity. Your lifelong dream is to become a politician who will defend the interests of citizens, the city, and nature. Your parents, both dedicated environmentalists, nurtured in you a relationship with nature and involvement in the community. In your future work, you desire to see urban communities flourish, preserve the cultural heritage of the country's cities, and guide and educate people about their home and place of origin. When you learned of a series of projects that threatened to change the cosy charm of your city, where skyscrapers, a factory, and a chemical plant were to be built, you felt a sense of urgency. Something needs to be done to stop the city from tearing down community centres, converting houses into commercial buildings, and pushing nature out of the city!

**Ethan Ramirez, 24:** You're an aspiring engineer with an unyielding determination to elevate your city's infrastructure. You grew up traversing potholed roads and witnessing antiquated public facilities, which developed an innate sense of responsibility for improving the quality of life in your community. Your parents, both blue-collar workers, instilled in you a strong work ethic and a belief that even the smallest changes can have a lasting impact. Inspired by their resilience, you pursued your dream of becoming an engineer and envisioned a future where your city's infrastructure was a testament to progress. When you learned about civil engineering in college, you were struck by how much urban infrastructure had been neglected as a result of recent political decisions. Unpaved roads, insufficient public transport, and outdated public facilities were clear reminders of the crumbling foundations of the city. Bad roads meant that buses to schools were often late, dirt roads, and a lack of sidewalks in some parts of the city. It often happened that not much was missing, and some careless drivers would cause an accident... and all this just because of the lack of work of the politicians?

**Lilly Foster, 18:** You're a technologically savvy activist who embodies an unyielding commitment to truth in the face of media manipulation. You grew up in the digital age, drawn to the power of spreading information through social media platforms and online news outlets. Your parents, both social advocates, nurtured your critical thinking skills and a keen eye for fake stories. Inspired by their commitment to justice, you became passionate about using technology as a tool to combat misinformation and promote the value of accurate reporting. When you noticed the growing disparity between the news and reality, you felt an urgent need to stand up to media manipulation. Distorted headlines and distorted narratives have begun to divide your community and erode trust



in unbiased reporting. You witnessed your peers falling victim to misinformation and propaganda, and you knew you had to act. But what could be done?

### Public space characters

**Michael Bird, 20 years old:** You are a passionate defender of urban parks and greenery. Your family has long fought to preserve the urban ecosystem, and you have decided to follow in their footsteps. Your mission is to mobilise the public against plans to build office buildings in the park, which you consider an important green space for the city. You are trying to open the eyes of citizens about the importance of maintaining natural spaces for future generations. You organise meetings, protests, and information campaigns to raise awareness about this issue. Your fight is not easy, but your dedication to nature and urban heritage gives you the strength to continue.

**Barbara Smith, 18 years old:** You are a civic activist who lives above a local music club that disturbs the peace of the night. You have become the unofficial spokesperson for your neighbourhood in the fight against noise and for the protection of the resident's rights to quiet rest. You're trying to get the city's support for regulating nightlife. Your priority is to ensure that the people in your neighbourhood can sleep undisturbed. You organise meetings with local citizens to jointly create a petition demanding specific measures. You write letters to the council and meet with city officials to raise the issue. Your strength is determination and the ability to unite the community around a common goal.

**Charlie Smith, 20 years old:** You are a local businessman who is faced with the problem of insufficient public parking around his business. This shortage drastically reduces the number of customers who can visit your store, which significantly affects your daily turnover. While trying to find a solution to this problem, you start thinking about different ways to improve the situation. You organise meetings with other traders to jointly search for ideas on how to improve the availability of parking for customers. You are looking for constructive approaches to draw the attention of the city council to the need to improve the parking infrastructure. Your fight is motivated by a desire to see your city flourish and its businesses thrive, and you're determined to find a solution that works for everyone.

**Olivia Green, 18 years old:** You are a young urban planner and activist for green spaces in the city. You face the problem that the city plans to convert the only city park into a shopping centre, which would take away a key green space for residents. The park in which you grew up and where you spent many happy moments is for you a symbol of what makes the city friendly and liveable. Now that you are facing this threat, you are wondering what the most effective way could be to counter this plan. You think deeply about the best strategy to convince the city council that preserving the park is necessary for the well-being of the community. Your goal is to find a way to preserve the park as the green heart of the city for current and future generations.

**Thomas Reed, 20 years old:** You are an enthusiastic start-up founder with a vision to use public spaces in the city for technology workshops and community gatherings. Your city, full of historic squares and parks, now faces the challenge of adapting these spaces to modern times without losing its soul. You grew up dreaming of creating places where people could learn about new technologies while sharing their ideas in an inspiring environment. Your start-up has ambitions to connect technology with the community, but you have encountered a lack of public spaces that are available and equipped for technology events. Your goal is to create a platform where the local tech community can come together and work together on innovations that move the city forward while keeping its public spaces open and accessible to all.

## Politics article: Urban Intrigues: Corruption and political influence on life in the Shadow City

In the shadow of the seemingly peaceful life in the city, there is a network of corruption and unfair practices between political figures and members of the city hall management. These unethical alliances violate the trust of citizens and shape the city's destiny according to their own interests, not the interests of the community. Our society has the right to know the truth and stand against this hidden force affecting our daily lives. Get ready to uncover the dark secrets that affect our city and its inhabitants.

### 1. Heron provokes defiance

Opposition councillor Mirek Heron uncompromisingly expresses his dissatisfaction with how the councillors are allegedly abusing their power in the matter of awarding the contract to InnoTech Solutions s.r.o. He perceives it as a conflict of interest connected with some members of the town hall management. Heron emphasises that the city hall purposely did not act in time and is now trying to sweep the whole case under the carpet. This is apparently another example of the hiding of the truth and the need for transparent action within local self-government.

### 2. How much do Christmas markets cost?

In a shocking corruption story, one particular person we got information about from a verified source was met with a dishonest proposal by a senior official. He asked for a bribe in exchange for securing a sales place at the Christmas markets. Surprised and outraged by this dishonest act, she decided to testify about the experience, exposing the dark side of practices that undermine fairness in public business opportunities.

### **3. Shadow City Carnival is going to happen. The town hall concludes contracts behind the scenes!**

Andrej Turek, the founder of the cultural event "Shadow City Carnival," is facing a crushing situation after the local city hall suddenly cancelled his contract citing a lack of funds. However, much to Turek's surprise and indignation, the town hall subsequently concluded a favourable agreement with another company that is connected to members of the city management. This new company is organising the event for a significantly higher price than would be needed to support Andrej Turek's original project. The whole affair caused a public outcry and raised doubts about the transparency of the city hall's decision-making.

### **4. Officials on luxury trips**

In the last year, there has been an alarming increase in the number of foreign business trips of officials, that are using public funds for their luxury trips. Councillors try to disguise these trips as work, but the reality shows that instead of solving local problems, they travel to places more suitable for luxury vacations. Our news records, obtained directly from the City Hall, reveal a complete overview of all officials' travels. We are preparing to publish them so that the public has full access to information about the use of public funds.

Considering the revealed urban intrigues and corrupt practices in the Shadow City, there is an urgent need for citizens to take an active role in public affairs. Only their involvement can provide the necessary pressure to change and restore a transparent and fair urban environment. Participation in civic activities, petition campaigns, and public meetings can be the key to shaping a better future for all of us. Let's come together to support the integrity of our city and ensure that public funds truly serve the citizens of Shadow City.



## Poverty article: Obstacles on the Map of Solidarity: Fighting Poverty in the Urban Labyrinth

In the shadow of the city's skyscrapers and behind the seemingly impervious cloak of bureaucracy, stories unfold that reveal the uncompromising reality of growing poverty. Our city, once held up as an example of a fair society, is becoming an arena of growing disparity between citizens and clientelism that is affecting the lives of many citizens. The way the city deals with issues of housing, education support, and the management of city affairs is now under scrutiny.

### 1. Local Tradesmen on the verge of collapse

Recently, we have seen a surprising increase in the rents of shops in the city, which has particularly affected small business owners. One of the victims of this situation is Markéta Novak, the owner of a popular cafe in the city centre. Markéta's rent increased by 50%, which led to the end of the business and layoffs. According to information from the witness Peter Freedom, a former employee of the city office, some properties in the city are transferred into the hands of anonymous investment companies that profit from the uncertainty of small business owners.

### 2. Back passing for the city

Company CityBuilders a.s. bought rental houses from the city that were originally intended for poor residents. However, instead of providing affordable housing, the company keeps raising the rent while the city still pays most of the costs. John Volf, who works at the town hall, claims that there is a connection between the company and the town hall. The sale of rental homes was apparently used to raise funding for a new tiny house project that CityBuilders is now profiting from.

### 3. Shadows on the Town Hall

Clientelism at City Hall has a dramatic impact on the daily lives of residents. A specific story told by a former employee of the city hall, Monica Blacksmith, reveals how some councillors favour related companies that receive advantages in the awarding of public contracts. This practice distorts equality and abuses power for the benefit of selected individuals.

### 4. Delayed payment of education support



Frustration is running in our city area schools as teachers and educators face delayed payment of education support. Teacher Pavlina Stepanek tells how this situation interferes with the possibilities of providing clubs and other educational programs. The money that is devoted to education is lost in bureaucracy and is insufficiently directed to where it is really needed.

Whether we are employees, entrepreneurs, or parents, the invisible bond of poverty cuts across our urban landscape for all of us. It is time to stand up, step out of the darkness, and seek justice. Each story is a chapter in our shared novel, and now it's time to write our own ending. We can be the voice of those who cannot speak and together turn the city into a light of solidarity and equality. Let's not forget - we are strong when we are united.

## Public space article: Public space in the aftermath of controversial decisions

In the heart of our city, questions are emerging regarding public space, which is becoming an arena for all sorts of controversies. From controversial decisions regarding the use of parks to disputes over office buildings at the expense of public space, the city faces challenges that not only generate debate but often opposition from citizens. In this article, we will focus on several key topics that influence the shape of our public space and stimulate debates about its future.

### 1. Citizens against concrete oases

Citizens do not agree with the city hall's plans to change the zoning plan of the city park. The rejection of the proposal to sell part of the park to UrbanLand, which wants to build office buildings there, raises suspicions of corruption. Environmental activist Michael Bird highlights the uncertainties.

and lack of transparency in City Hall proceedings. He also points to the connection of Robert King, the owner of UrbanLand Development, to the political scene. The fight for the protection of the city park thus turns into resistance against the city hall's plans, considered implausible in favour of less transparent business interests.

### 2. Music before the curtain of silence

A local music club, owned by one of the councillors, causes the displeasure of the residents with its disruptive nightly events. Barbora Pech, who lives above the club, complains about the non-observance of the night silence, but it seems that the town hall does not respond to her comments. Residents do not know how to deal with this problem and are looking for help from the city to ensure quiet night hours and improve their quality of life. They appeal to the local administration to act against disruptive activities that disturb the peace and tranquillity of their surroundings.

### 3. Will or won't there be a Shadow City Carnival?

Andrej Turek, the organiser of the popular cultural event "Shadow City Carnival", is angry after the local city hall cancelled his contract without warning, saying that they did not have the funds to support the event. However, to Turk's outrage, City Hall subsequently agreed with another firm that is connected to members of the city's management. This new company is organising the event for a significantly higher price than would be needed to support Andrej Turek's original project. The situation sparked public outrage and questions about the transparency of City Hall's decision-making.

#### **4. Public money drowned in dangerous bicycle lanes: Who profited from it?**

Projects for the construction of bike lanes in the city, financed by public funds, have caused a wave of criticism. Bike lanes are pointlessly routed in traffic between cars, and they are not connected, which causes an increased risk for cyclists. Robert Blanda from the Safe Roads organisation draws attention to this dangerous situation. There is speculation as to whether the bike lanes were built only to give the companies associated with the town hall an opportunity to use up public money. The situation requires careful investigation and accountability by local authorities.

Our public space faces serious challenges – from dangerously placed bike lanes to disruptive music production. These problems not only threaten the safety of residents but also reflect inefficient management of public space. In a city where every step leads to new secrets being revealed, it's up to the citizens to shed light on the shadows that hide the truth. Who is the real mastermind of events?

## Refugees article: Refugees in the Shadow of Urban Changes: The Fight for Integration and Support

The city faces challenges in the integration of refugees that reflect the global debate on migration. Cancelled courses and a growing negative media campaign cast a shadow over positive integration efforts. The stories of individuals and organisations reveal a complex situation and open questions about the direction of the city's policy towards refugees.

### **1. Harsh effects of cancellation of educational courses on refugees**

The story of Natalya Petrova, a Ukrainian refugee, is an instructive example. After completing Czech language courses, she managed to find a job and integrate into society. However, with the current cancellation of courses, other refugees find themselves in a difficult situation. Without Czech language courses, it will be more difficult for them to find employment in the labour market. One of our sources close to the town hall, Mrs. Alena Novak, claims that the cancellation is not a question of the budget, but of the unwillingness to invest in more qualified refugees in the city.

### **2. The light and shadow of the media campaign**

Ahmad Al-Mansour, a Syrian refugee, was the victim of a negative media campaign that discredited his successful business without evidence. False reports of poor-quality food and fraud have led to financial losses and social isolation. Although he was later acquitted, the damage to his business and reputation was irreversible. Ahmad's story warns against the dangers of misinformation and calls for reflection on the media's responsibility in shaping public opinion about refugees.

Although some media portray refugees negatively, there are many stories about the benefits they bring to the city. For example, the story of another refugee from Ukraine, Taras, who founded a successful moving company. His story shows how well they fit in with us and how they enrich our society culturally and commercially.

### **3. Protecting the home: The danger of radical opinions in the public space**

The organisation "Protection of the Home" focuses on limiting migration and emphasises the need to protect traditional values and culture. However, their meetings are strongly influenced by radical opinions that undermine multiculturalism and emphasise national sovereignty. However, pensioner George Novak, a participant in one of the events, expressed concern about extremism and called for a more open discussion on the topic.



#### **4. About obstacles and the strength of threads**

The city government cancelled financial support for organisations supporting migrants, which led to the cancellation of events such as the Festival of International Cuisine or the International Folkloric Dance Competition. Peter Fousek, an activist in the "Centre for Support and Integration", claims that the planned decrease in the municipal contribution threatens their projects and activities. Fousek believes that someone powerful is pulling the threads when the city argues for unplanned renovations that are presented as a higher priority. This situation affects migrants in the process of integration and raises questions about the power games in the background.

Together we can create change in this city. Let's help create a safe and supportive environment for refugees looking for a new home. Your involvement can make a difference. Let's show that every vote and every help count.

## Women's rights article: Violation of Women's Rights in the City – A Shadow in a Seemingly Clear Sky

In a city that should be a symbol of progress and equality, we still face serious issues regarding the violation of women's rights. Despite many steps towards equality in recent years, there are still serious areas where women are discriminated against, and their rights are neglected.

One of the most serious areas in which women's rights are violated is the lack of economic equality. Many women still face unequal pay for the same work as their male colleagues. This wage gap is not only unfair but also contributes to women's poverty and their dependence on men. This is particularly problematic in situations of divorce or relationship breakdown, where women may lose their economic independence.

Another important aspect is violence against women, which still persists. Domestic violence, sexual harassment, and rape are still common problems in the city. Many women are afraid to report these abuses due to fear of revenge or lack of support from city authorities.

Access to health care is also an issue that affects women. Lack of access to reproductive services and restrictions on the right to abortion prevent women from making decisions about their own bodies and their reproductive health. This creates vulnerability and limits their options in life.

In addition, women are often underrepresented in politics and city management. This leads to insufficient consideration of their needs and perspectives in public policy and decision-making.

If we want to achieve true equality and eliminate the violation of women's rights in the city, several steps need to be taken. This includes raising awareness of these issues, improving women's legal protection, and strengthening their economic independence. We also need to support women in leadership and politics so that their voices are heard in decision-making processes.

In recent weeks, louder voices have started to be heard in our city warning against the violation of women's rights. Several obvious causes and indications point to potential inequality that should be the subject of our attention.

### **Case 1: The journey for a dream that was destroyed**



Samantha Gonzales, one of our gifted high school students, had the unique opportunity to represent our city and country at the European Physics Finals in Copenhagen. Her abilities and achievements in physics were undisputed, but recently this opportunity was taken away from her. Her parents say it is not safe for her to travel to a foreign country. This loss of a talented student is a sensitive demonstration of the limitation of women's options.

### **Case 2: Experts in the media – Where are the women?**

During the analysis of news reports, student Anna Novak discovered that 90% of the experts that journalists look for to comment on local topics are men. Ten years ago, commenting experts were gender balanced. This imbalance in the media space is a worrying signal.

### **Case 3: The mysterious disappearance of a voice for sustainability**

One of the main voices in the area of sustainability and environmental protection was Jasmine Josh, head of the Institute of Circular Economy. Her column was a popular source of information on the environment and sustainability in the city. However, in the last year, she mysteriously disappeared from public life and her column no longer appears in newspapers. What happened to this important announcer?

### **Case 4: The mysterious newspaper owner**

An important piece in this complex puzzle is the message heard by witness Michael Rodriguez. According to his curious listening to his father on the phone, the owner of the newspaper, who has campaigned against former mayor Jessica Brown in the past, may not be the real owner of Texmex Holding LTD, which owns the newspaper. He is said to appear to the public as the owner, but someone else has the real decision-making power. This information could point to hidden power games that influence our media environment.

These are just some of the cases that make us think about what the real relationships and inequalities are in our city. It is urgent that we pay attention to these issues and ensure that women's rights are not threatened. Every voice and perspective are important to our society, and we should not allow it to be silenced. It is time to stand up for women's rights and strive for a fair and equal society for all.

Mirek Lawn



## Chance cards

### Card no. 1:

*ecology*

In her recent public address, Greta Thunberg mentioned your activities as a great example of green civic activism. This has earned you 5000 followers.

### Card no. 2:

*ecology*

The mayor spoke at the Green Realists conference, where he ridiculed your activities, saying that your conclusions are not based on scientific research and that protecting the environment can have a negative impact on industry and job creation. This caused you to lose 3000 followers.

### Card no. 3:

*women's rights*

Emma Watson, the goodwill ambassador for UN Women, noticed your activity and wrote about you on her social media accounts. You got 5000 followers thanks to this.

### Card no. 4:

*women's rights*

The director of the Girls in STEM community centre who supported your project has been accused of not walking the talk because her 15-year-old daughter goes to a private high school. This discredited her work for the education community. As she was a promoter of your activities, it caused you to lose 3000 followers.

### Card no. 5:

*general*

The CEO of the newspaper which accused your former mayor Jessica Brown of taking bribes and campaigned against her was questioned by police yesterday in connection with one of the corruption



cases linked to the town hall, as he is suspected of being involved. A journalist who covered the case on TV last night suggested that the campaign against Jessica Brown may have been a cover for his activities. This causes some residents who have noticed your activities before but were not convinced, to start following you. You have gained 4000 followers.

**Card no. 6:**

*general*

Yesterday there was an article about George Jones in the local paper. The author wrote about his association with former mayor Jessica Brown and the fact that he was also possibly involved in bribery cases at the city hall and was accused of being paid to discriminate against certain people. The author pointed out that your activities that have recently appeared in the public space seem to be aligned with the causes that Mirek has been working on and created just to make a fuss without any substance. This caused you to lose 4000 followers.

**Card no. 7:**

*social poverty*

Pavel Šporcl from the National Symphony Orchestra noticed Luke Stone and his virtuoso performances at concerts. He was enchanted by it. He stopped by after the concert and they talked about the fact that it was probably his last concert because he wouldn't have the funds for another one. Pavel Šporcl decided that he would not leave this genius talent alone and decided to mention it on his Instagram. The moment he mentioned that the Elementary Art School in Shadow City does not have the means to develop young talents, you gained 5,000 new supporters on your side.

**Card no. 8:**

*social poverty*

Jasmine Hawthorn regularly organises charity concerts and events, for example, Soup for Everyone or Day for Families. The event is organised with the support of volunteers and financed by donations from the citizens of the city. All proceeds from these events are used to support families whose financial situation is not the best. Unfortunately, it was discovered that one of the sponsors of her events was also a local mobster, nicknamed the "Lord of the Shadows". The public is very offended by this and you lose 3000 followers.

**Card no.9:**



*migrants*

Angelina Jolie, who is the Special Envoy of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and actively participates in field missions and advocates for the rights of refugees and displaced persons around the world, noticed your activities and mentioned them in her recent interview as one of best practices on how people can help improve the situation of refugees. That got you 5000 followers.

**Card no. 10:**

*migrants*

The case of several migrants who received state social benefits, although they were not entitled to them, was exposed. You lost 3000 followers after this event.

**Card no. 11:**

*politics*

Your activity was noticed by the Václav Havel Foundation, which is interested in "clean" politics. You gained 5,000 followers because they promised you cooperation and reshared your posts.

**Card no. 12:**

*politics*

Alex Nguyen has been accused of having his journalistic activities influenced by Russian propaganda and funding. Although he disputed this accusation, you still lost 3000 followers.

**Card no. 13:**

*public space*

Chris Hemsworth noticed your activity. This Australian actor is not only known for his role as Thor in the Marvel movies but also for his commitment to protecting the environment and promoting a sustainable lifestyle. Chris Hemsworth is publicly involved in issues related to the protection of natural resources and supports various environmental initiatives, this time he chose you and mentioned your activities on his Instagram. You get 5000 followers.

**Card no. 14:**

*public space*



Co-funded by  
the European Union

The social networks where you share your ideas have changed their post display algorithms and started penalising the way you post. You will surely respond to this situation, but at the moment you are losing 3000 followers.

## Interviews

### 1. Case: Violation of women's rights in the city and the situation around Mayor Jessica Brown

**Witness (T):** Peter Tit

**G:** Could you please tell me what you know about the removal of Mayor Jessica Brown from office?

**T:** Of course. Mayor Jessica Brown has been removed from office by her own political party. She still had two years left in her term. The reason for the dismissal was allegations by the Shadow News newspaper of corruption and accepting bribes.

**G:** Was Ms. Brown officially charged and did she face prosecution on those charges?

**T:** No, the matter never went to trial, and Ms. Brown was not officially charged. It should be noted that until the outbreak of this scandal, Mrs. Brown was doing a good job in her position and even flagged several cases where public funds were not used in accordance with the law.

**G:** Do you think there is someone in particular behind all these events?

**T:** Yes, I have a strong impression that behind all this is a person they call "The Lord of the Shadows." Unfortunately, I don't know who it is, and I have no concrete evidence to support this theory. But it seems that there is some background to this whole scandal that is not visible at first glance.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Tit, for the interview.

### 2. Case: Violation of women's rights in the city and the situation involving the Union team

**Witness (J):** Emilie Just

**G:** Can you please describe the situation regarding the Union girls' soccer team?

**J:** Of course. The Union team, in which I work as a coach, is a girls' soccer team in the 16-18 age category. For the past four years, we have been supported by a major sponsor who has provided



funding for our activities and participation in the national league. This support guaranteed us stability and allowed us to compete with the best teams in the country.

**G:** C What happened that the Union team lost their main sponsor?

**J:** Unfortunately, a few months ago our main sponsor withdrew their support. He only gave us funding for four seasons and refused to extend the contract for another season. This has put us in a difficult position as we are now at risk of not being able to continue in the national league.

**G:** How long has the Union team been looking for a new sponsor?

**J:** We have been looking for a new sponsor for five months, but we have not been successful so far. Despite being ranked among the top five teams in the country for three consecutive seasons, we are unable to find anyone to support us.

**G:** Do you have any suspicions as to why your sponsor withdrew their support?

**J:** I suspect a person called "The Lord of the Shadows" is behind all of this. I have heard of him, but I have no concrete information about his identity. All I know is that they say he wants to take over the whole city and someone should stop him. I think this may be the reason for our difficulties.

**G:** Thank you, Ms. Just, for your testimony.

### **3. Case: The "Girls in STEM" project and the mayor's accusation of tunnelling public contracts**

**Witness (D):** Mark Long.

**G:** Could you please describe the situation regarding the "Girls in STEM" project?

**D:** Of course. The "Girls in STEM" project was founded to increase the number of female university graduates in STEM fields by popularising these fields among high school girls. The project was run by an out-of-school centre and long-term received public funds for its activities.



**G:** What happened that the "Girls in STEM" project will not receive public funds for next year?

**D:** The promise of financial support for the project was given to us by the office of Jessica Brown, the former mayor. Unfortunately, after her departure and the arrival of a new mayor, the new mayor declared that he had other priorities and decided to cancel the agreement on the financial support of the project.

**G:** Do you have any suspicions about why the new mayor cancelled the financial support for the "Girls in STEM" project?

**D:** I seriously suspect that the new mayor's priority is to tunnel public contracts. I have received information that he has close connections with Sigma, which is a development company and is the largest recipient of public contracts from the city. It is an obvious conflict of interest that should be investigated.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Long, for your testimony.

#### **4. Case: Samantha Gonzales and Robert Briggs - Information about Texmex holding LTD**

**Witness (D):** Michael Rodriguez

**G:** Mr. Rodriguez. Could you please describe the situation regarding Samantha Gonzales?

**R:** Of course. Samantha Gonzales is one of our gifted students who has won both regional and national physics championships. She was to represent our school, city, and country at the European finals in physics in Copenhagen. Unfortunately, her parents recently cancelled her trip, saying it was not safe for her to travel to a foreign country.

**G:** Have you heard anything else about this decision?

**E:** Yes, I heard something interesting. I overheard my father on the phone talking about Robert Briggs. Mr. Briggs is a former athlete who represented our country in boxing at the international level two decades ago. Importantly, Mr Briggs is also known to own the newspaper that campaigned against Jessica Brown. I heard in an interview that he may not be the real owner of Texmex Holding LTD,

which owns the Shadow News newspaper. He is said to appear to the public as the owner, but someone else has the real decision-making power.

**G:** Can you tell us more about this information regarding Robert Briggs and Texmex Holding LTD?

**R:** Unfortunately, that's all I've heard. I am not sure who could be the real decision-maker in this company. But it seems that it may have some bearing on the situation with Samantha Gonzales and her trip to Copenhagen.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Rodriguez, for your testimony.

## 5. Case: Violations of women's rights and changes in the media

**Witness (H):** Eveline Houda

**G:** Can you please describe to me what you noticed about the violation of women's rights in the city?

**H:** Of course. During my literature class assignment, I was tasked with comparing today's newspapers with those published ten years ago. During this comparison, I noticed that experts who are sought after by journalists to comment on local topics are 90% men today. Ten years ago, the commenting experts were more or less balanced in terms of gender, which suggests an imbalance only recently.

**G:** What can you say about the changes in the content of the newspaper?

**H:** An interesting change was also the disappearance of the very popular column of Jasmine Josh, head of the Institute of Circular Economy. This column used to be an important source of information about the environment and sustainability in the city. But in the last year, she has mysteriously disappeared from public life, and her column no longer appears in newspapers. This is something I have noticed as an important change in the media.

**G:** Do you have any other observations about this issue in the media or in society?



**H:** I think that the imbalance in the participation of women in media interviews and the disappearance of important voices like Jasmine Josh can testify to the violation of women's rights in public discourse. It is important that we reflect on this trend and ensure that women's voices and perspectives continue to be respected in media and public life.

**G:** Thank you, Mrs. Houda, for your testimony.

## **6. Case: The influence of "The Lord of Shadows" in companies obtaining public contracts**

**Witness (B):** David Bahnik

**G:** Mr. Bahnik, can you please tell me what you know about the influence of „The Lord of the Shadows" in companies obtaining public contracts?

**B:** Yes, I have serious concerns about this topic. Reports I've heard and information I've obtained from reliable sources indicate that a person called the "The Lord of the Shadows" has unusual influence in the companies that receive public contracts from the city.

**G:** Can you provide more specific information about this influence?

**B:** Unfortunately, I don't have direct evidence, but it seems that "The Lord of the Shadows" has an obvious influence in all these companies. This stems from several factors, such as the recurring name on different boards and the mysterious cooperation between these firms. He or his wife is said to sit on every board of directors. Reports also suggest that "The lord of the Shadows" is interested in these firms winning public contracts and that public funds are being used to benefit him.

**G:** Do you think that "The Lord of the Shadows" can have any influence on the situation regarding the disappearance of Jasmine Josh's voice and other inequalities in the city that we have noticed recently?

**B:** I believe "The Lords of the Shadows" is connected to these events. As I mentioned, his interest in controlling companies that win public contracts can influence the content of the media and obscure important vocal figures such as Jasmine Josh. I think all these things together point to the need for a thorough examination.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Bahník, for your testimony.

## **7. Case: Influence of "The Lord of the Shadows" and the tunnelling of public contracts**

**Witness (N):** Tomas New

**G:** Mr. New, can you please tell us what you know about the identity of the person known as "The Lord of the Shadows"?

**N:** Of course. During my research into this case, I discovered that the "Lord of the Shadows" is a master at using different identities and different names in different situations. This is apparently part of his tactics to remain anonymous and difficult to detect.

**G:** Can you give some examples of these different names or identities without naming any specifically?

**N:** No, unfortunately, I can't.

**G:** How did you find out this information about the different identities of the "Lord of the Shadows"?

**N:** I found out the information when I was working at the city registry office. In the list of companies that received contracts from the city, there were names that did not exist. Everything is fine today.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. New, for your testimony.

### **The list of recipients of public contracts:**

#### **1. Company Sigma s.r.o.**

- **Owner:** Jan White
- **Executive:** Anna Freedom
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Petr Novák (chairman)
  - Anna Freedom (member)



- Robert King (member)

## 2. ABC Builders a.s.

- **Owner:** Petr Blacksmith
- **Executive:** Eva Coachman
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Petr Blacksmith (chairman)
  - Anna Freedom (member)
  - Katherine Woodsman (member)

## 3. GreenTech Group s.r.o.

- **Owner:** Anna Freedom
- **Executive:** Jane Knight
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Anna Freedom (chairman)
  - Jana Knight (member)
  - George Klen (member)

## 4. EcoBuild a.s.

- **Owner:** Katherine Woodsman
- **Executive:** Lucas Freedom
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Katherine Woodsman (chairman)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)
  - Antonio Bird (member)

## 5. TechInnovate s.r.o.

- **Owner:** Lumir Petruzalek
- **Executive:** Lucas Freedom
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Yuval Goldstein (chairman)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)
  - Eva Buffoon (member)



## 6. BuildMaster a.s.

- **Owner:** Josef Horyna
- **Executive:** Krystof King
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Josef Horyna (chairman)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)
  - Peter Blacksmith (member)

## 7. InnoTech Solutions s.r.o.

- **Owner:** Rudolf Hobby
- **Executive:** Eva Buffoon
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Rudolf Hobby (chairman)
  - Eva Buffoon (member)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)

## 8. EcoBuilders a.s.

- **Owner:** Katherine Woodsman
- **Executive:** John Rose
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Katherine Woodsman (chairman)
  - John Rose (member)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)

## 9. CityConstruct s.r.o.

- **Owner:** Martin Baker
- **Executive:** Anna Freedom
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Martin Baker (chairman)
  - Anna Freedom (member)
  - Eva Buffoon (member)

## 10. GreenInnovate a.s.

- **Owner:** Eva Buffoon
- **Executive:** Lucas Freedom

- **Statutory authority:**
  - Eva Buffoon (chairman)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)
  - Martin Baker (member)

#### 11. SmartTech Solutions s.r.o.

- **Owner:** Philip Log
- **Executive:** Robert King
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Philip Log (chairman)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)
  - Martin Baker (member)

#### 12. CityBuilders a.s.

- **Owner:** Martin Baker
- **Executive:** Eva Buffoon
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Martin Baker (chairman)
  - Eva Buffoon (member)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)

#### 13. TechBuilders s.r.o.

- **Owner:** Kamil Long
- **Executive:** Lucas Freedom
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Kamil Long (chairman)
  - Robert Kingl (member)
  - Katherine Woodsman (member)

#### 14. InnoBuilders a.s.

- **Owner:** David Foothills
- **Executive:** Lucas Freedom
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Jane Foothills (chairman)
  - Lucas Freedom (member)

- Philip Log (member)

#### 15. EcoTech Solutions s.r.o.

- **Owner:** Lucas Freedom
- **Executive:** Robert King
- **Statutory authority:**
  - Lucas Freedom (chairman)
  - Robert King (member)
  - Martin Baker(member)

### 8. Case: Influence of the "Lord of the Shadows" and the tunnelling of public contracts

**Witness (F):** Martina Flanderck

**G:** Can you please tell me what you know about the connection between the "Lord of the Shadows" and the companies that get public contracts?

**F:** Yes, I had access to sensitive information that points to this dangerous connection. It became clear to me from my former workplace in the municipal office that the "Lord of the Shadows" and his wife, whom we know as Karin Shadows, are connected to many companies that obtain public contracts.

**G:** Can you give us a general overview of the substantial influence of the "Lord of the Shadows" and his wife on these companies?

**F:** Their influence lies in the fact that they have the keywords in deciding which public contracts will be awarded and how. This enables the deliberate "tunnelling" of public contracts, where funds are directed to specific companies without a fair selection process.

**G:** How did you get this information?

**F:** T This information was part of my former work environment and was confirmed by several reliable sources. It's just that no one wants to talk about it. They are either bribed or afraid.

**G:** Thank you, Ms. Flanderck, for your testimony.



## 9. Case: Magical Artefact – Key to the City and the Influence of the "Lord of the Shadows"

**Witness (F):** Robert Ford - he himself called that he had information that might be of interest to me.

**G:** Mr. Ford, could you please tell me what you discovered in an old document in our archives?

**F:** Of course. In our archive, I came across an old manuscript that dates back several centuries. The document states that a magical artefact known as the "Key to the City" is in the possession of a person known as the "Lord of the Shadows." The important information in this document is that whoever controls this artefact has the ability to control the minds of up to 50 % of the townspeople.

**G:** What proof do you have that this document is true and relevant to our current investigation?

**F:** Proof of the authenticity of a document is its historical signs, stamps, and seals. This document was sealed and kept in an old archive vault for many years, testifying to its authenticity. At the same time, I checked the continuity of the storage of the document in the archive.

**G:** What is your opinion on the connection between the magical artefact and the person known as the "Lord of the Shadows"?

**F:** This document seems to confirm a connection between the "Lord of the Shadows" and a magical artefact that could provide immense power. If this information were true, it could have serious consequences for our city and its residents.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Ford, for your testimony regarding this document and the magical artefact.

## 10. Case: Central Park

**Witness:** Robert King

**George (G):** Mr. King, we would like to hear from you regarding your role at UrbanLand Development, Inc. Although this is a Central Park case, we are also interested in your relationship with

politicians. Can you please tell us something about your position in society and your relationship to the political environment?

**Witness (K):** Of course. I am one of the owners and managers of the company UrbanLand Development, which deals with development projects. In this position, of course, I came into contact with local politicians, as is customary in this industry. However, I must emphasise that my relations with politicians are exclusively of a commercial nature and are not accompanied by any unfair practices.

**G:** Speaking specifically of Central Park, what is your position on the accusations that you want to tear down part of the park and build office buildings on it?

**K:** These are just baseless rumours and speculations. Our development project in this area would only be feasible if all legal regulations were followed and in accordance with the needs of the city. Our company has always tried to comply with strict environmental and urban standards. Central Park is an important symbol for the city, and I would never support damaging it.

**G:** There are claims that you are associated with a person called the "Lord of the Shadows," who is said to be influential in local politics. Do you have any information about this person, and if so, what is your connection to them?

**K:** (Smiling) These are just stories. I have never heard of a "Lord of the Shadows," and if such a person exists, I have no connection with him. I find all these speculations ridiculous and unfounded. It's just talk I'm making fun of.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. King, for your testimony.

## 11. Case: UrbanLand Development

**Witness:** Jacob Volunteer

**George (G):** Mr. Volunteer, can you please tell us a little about your position at People of the Earth and your role in raising awareness of environmental issues in the city?





**Witness (V):** Of course. I am a long-time member of the organisation The People of the Earth and I am involved in monitoring and drawing attention to ecological problems in our city. One of the main problems that I drew attention to for a long time was the storage of cleaning detergents near our river.

**G:** What specific concerns did you have about this issue?

**V:** I was concerned that an accident could release these dangerous substances into our river, which would have a catastrophic impact on our environment. I pointed out that it would be much safer to move the entire treatment line away from the river, and the city had the land to do so.

**G:** Why do you think the city didn't take such a step when it had the land available?

**V:** (Disgusted) That's a question I've asked myself many times. It appears that someone in the city is preventing this situation from being adequately addressed. The city had the option of moving the treatment line to a safer location, but something or someone was blocking that change. Some people talk about a "Lord of the Shadows" but frankly, I have no idea who that might be.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Volunteer, for your testimony.

## 12. Case: GreenWheels, Inc. vs. City

**Witness:** Radek Grove

**George (G):** Mr. Grove, could you please introduce us to your company GreenWheels, Inc., and say something about its mission?

**Witness (Gr):** Of course. GreenWheels, Inc. is a company specialising in the production and operation of environmentally friendly electric buses. Our mission is to contribute to the protection of the environment by offering a sustainable and clean way of public transport in cities.

**G:** What is your relationship with the city, and what has been your experience in the past regarding cooperation with local authorities?

**Gr:** We have a long-standing cooperation with the city, especially with the former mayor Jessica Brown. We had already signed a contract with her for the supply of our ecological buses. Cooperation has always been very positive and beneficial for both parties.

**G:** Can you tell us what happened after Mayor Jessica Brown was removed and a new mayor took office?

**Gr:** After the dismissal of the mayor and the arrival of a new mayor, the situation changed dramatically. The new mayor not only cancelled the contract we had signed with the city but threats and intimidation towards our company also began to appear. The new mayor seems to have other priorities and his main interest is money for his allies and opportunities to tunnel public contracts.

**G:** What effect does the introduction of your eco-buses have on the air in the city?

**Gr:** In the city where we have already introduced our eco-buses, there has been a significant improvement in air quality. These buses are powered by an electric motor, which means zero emissions of harmful substances into the air. This has resulted in a significant reduction in pollution and an improvement in the environment for local residents.

**G:** What are your thoughts on why the new mayor cancelled the contract you had with the previous administration?

**Gr:** I believe that the new mayor acts mainly in favour of his personal interests and his friends, who would benefit financially from the tunnelling of public contracts. This is very frustrating for me because our eco-buses could greatly contribute to protecting the environment and improving the quality of life in our city.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Grove, for your testimony.



### 13. Case: Fire at a landfill

**Witness:** Steven Heatly

**George (G):** Mr. Heatly, could you please describe the events of the dump fire and the accusations by John Miller?

**Witness (H):** Of course. The day the landfill fire broke out was very stressful for me and my business. As you may know, we run a competing waste disposal business and have recently had a bitter competitive battle with John Miller. His company won most of the public contracts, even though we have evidence that our operation is much more environmentally friendly.

**G:** How do you feel about the accusation that you may have been responsible for the dump fire?

**H:** The accusation made me very angry. I'm sure I had nothing to do with the fire. I could claim that someone is trying to damage my business and my reputation.

**G:** What do you think that a person called "Lord of the Shadows" could be behind all these events?

**H:** (Indignantly) I think this whole town is filled with mystery surrounding this character. No one knows who the "Lord of the Shadows" is, but there are rumours about him all over town. It is quite clear to me that someone with such a nickname must be behind these strange events. Someone should confront this mysterious individual and put an end to his shady activities.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Heatly, for your testimony.

### 14. Case: Fire at a landfill

**Witness:** John Miller

**George (G):** Mr. Miller, could you please tell us about the events surrounding the landfill fire and the allegations that have been made against you?



**Witness (M):** Of course. As for the fire, I have nothing to do with it. This is just unprofessional guesswork and speculation. I scoff at all the accusations because they have no basis in fact.

**G:** What is your relationship with Steven Heatly and his company GreenWheels, Inc.?

**M:** I have a competitive relationship with Mr. Heatly because we run companies in the waste disposal business. However, his claims about the ecological superiority of his company are, in my opinion, completely unfounded. My company won several public contracts because I do quality work at fair prices.

**G:** What do you think about the existence of the person he refers to as the "Lord of the Shadows"?

**M:** (Smiling) "Lord of the Shadows"? These are just rumours and speculations. I believe in my work and my integrity. No one is helping me except my team and my efforts. If anyone needs someone to be a culprit, they should look elsewhere.

**G:** How would you respond to the claim that your connections in the city could have kept you in the competition?

**M:** (With resoluteness) My relations with politics are professional and based on the fairness and capabilities of our firm. I would never use my contacts to obtain public contracts if our company could not meet the specified requirements. My work speaks for itself.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Miller, for your testimony.

## 15. Case: Homeless man Lucas Branik

**Witness:** Lucas Branik

**George (G):** Hey man, I heard you got some info on the stuff going on in town. Think you could share something?



**Witness (B):** Of course, journalist, I know everything! These streets tell me everything that happens in the city. But you want to hear it, right?

**G:** Well, feel free to say it. What is happening here?

**B:** So, it was like... well, no, I forgot. But you know, it all has to do with that mysterious guy that's been moving around here. They call him the Lord of the Shadows.

**G:** Lord of the Shadows, you say? And what exactly does it have to do with the things you're talking about?

**B:** Well... you see, things happen... here and there... and then they don't. But if you could give me some money, I might be able to remember some details.

**G:** Here's some change, mate. But I hope you're not just another storyteller.

**B:** Thank you, sir! That's how it goes, you know? But trust me I know something. Maybe it was the Lord of the Shadows who was responsible for these things. Or something like that...

**G:** Well, thanks for your "perspective" on the matter, mate. Hope it helps somehow.

**B:** Yeah, maybe. Now I'm off to go eat something good, you know?

## 16. Case: Rent prices of shops in the city

**Witness:** Peter Freedom

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Freedom. Thank you for taking the time to do this interview. Could you please let us know your observations regarding the recent dramatic increase in shop rents in the city?

**Witness (F):** Yes, of course. I've seen shop rents in the city rise significantly recently, which is having a devastating effect on local small business owners. For example, the owner of the cafe, Markéta Novak, had to close her business because her rent increased by an incredible 50%.

**G:** That sounds alarming. Do you have any information as to what could be causing this price increase?

**F:** Yes, according to my findings, some properties in the city are transferred to the hands of anonymous investment companies. These companies seem to profit from the uncertainty and financial distress of small business owners.

**G:** And do you have any idea who could be behind this action?

**F:** There is an assumption that behind this increase in prices and the transfer of real estate into the hands of investment companies is someone who is called the "Lord of the Shadows". Unfortunately, I don't know who exactly it could be.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Freedom, for your information. Any last words?

**F:** Only that it's important that we carefully examine this situation and find ways to protect local small businesses and maintain the diversity of our local economic landscape.

**G:** I understand. Thank you again for your time, Mr. Freedom.

**F:** You're welcome.

## **17. Case: The case of CityBuilders a.s.**

**Witness:** John Wolf

**George (G):** Mr. Wolf, thank you for coming. Could you provide us with more information regarding the sale of rental houses to CityBuilders a.s.?

**Witness (W):** The CityBuilders company acquired rental houses from the city that were originally intended for poor residents. Instead of providing affordable housing, the company keeps raising the rent, even though the city still pays most of the cost.

**G:** And do you have any suspicions about the connection between the company and the city hall?

**W:** Yes, there is a suspicion that there is a connection between CityBuilders and City Hall. The sale of rental homes was reportedly used to raise funding for a new tiny house project that CityBuilders is now profiting from.

**G:** Can you tell us more about this new project?

**W:** The small houses project was presented as an initiative to support affordable housing. However, CityBuilders seems to be using this support only for their own benefit while housing costs continue to rise for residents.

**G:** What about your claim that someone you call the "Lord of the Shadows" may be behind this action?

**W:** Yes, I believe that someone who is able to influence both the city hall and private companies may be behind this unfair action. Unfortunately, I don't know who exactly it is, but this individual or group may be behind this whole scandal.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Wolf, for your testimony. You have provided us with very important information. Any final comments?

**W:** I would like to appeal to the public to closely monitor the situation and demand transparency and responsibility from local authorities and private companies. It is important that we protect the interests of our citizens and fight against corruption and abuse of power.

**G:** I understand. Thank you, Mr. Wolf, for your involvement.

**W:** You're welcome.

## 18. Case: Shadows at Town Hall

**Witness:** Monica Blacksmith

**George (G):** Hello, Mrs. Blacksmith. Thank you for taking the time to do this interview. Could you please tell us more about clientelism in the town hall and its impact on the daily lives of the residents?

**Witness (B):** Yes, I would like to. Clientelism at Town Hall has a dramatic impact on residents' lives. I saw it with my own eyes. Some councillors prefer certain companies that are close to them, and these companies then get advantages in public procurement.

**B:** Can you give us a specific example of this practice?

**K:** Yes, for sure. A colleague of mine told me a story about how some councillors favour related companies when awarding public contracts. These companies then often receive favourable terms and contracts, which are often against the rules and disrupt equality in the business environment.

**B:** What impact does this have on the townspeople?

**K:** This practice has a very negative impact on the townspeople. Firms that benefit from clientelism at Town Hall are often unable to provide services or products at fair prices, resulting in a degraded quality of public services and products.

**B:** How would you characterise the overall situation at the town hall?

**K:** I am horrified by the connection between the management of the town hall and companies that receive public contracts. Overall, I think something stinks. Many people talk about it, but no one says anything outright because they are afraid of the consequences.

**B:** Thank you, Mrs. Blacksmith, for your open view of this situation. We will monitor how the situation develops.

## 19. Case: Delayed Payment of Education Support

**Witness:** Pavlina Stepanek

**George (G):** Hello, Mrs. Stepanek. Thank you for taking the time to do this interview. Can you please tell us about the frustration that is spreading in our city area schools over the delayed payment of education support?

**Witness (S):** Yes, of course. The situation in schools is very difficult as teachers and educators face delayed payment of education support. This has a negative impact on the possibilities of providing clubs and other educational programs for our pupils.

**G:** How does this situation affect normal school operations?

**S:** The money that is dedicated to education seems to be lost in bureaucracy and insufficiently directed to where it is really needed. This means that some schools are struggling to fund regular activities and programs, causing frustration for teachers, students, and their parents.

**G:** Do you have any suspicions as to why this situation occurs?



**S:** Yes, I am concerned that education support flows only through companies that are connected to the city, and other organisations do not receive sufficient funds. It is possible that someone influencing decision-making at the city level may be behind this. There is speculation that it could be someone like a "Lord of the Shadows" or "Ms. Shadows", but that's just talk for now.

**G:** Thank you, Ms. Stepanek, for your open view of this situation. We will monitor how the situation develops.

## **20. Case: Harsh effects of cancelling education courses on refugees**

**Witness:** Alena Novak

**George (G):** Hello, Mrs. Novak. Thank you for coming. Could you please tell us your views on the recent cancellation of Czech language courses for refugees?

**Witness (N):** Yes, of course. I am deeply concerned about the decision to cancel these courses. Natalya Petrov's story is clear evidence of how important integration through language courses can be for refugees. Her success in finding work and integrating into society was a great example of how these people can contribute to our society.

**G:** Do you think that cancelling the courses can have a negative impact on other refugees?

**N:** Yes, absolutely. Without these courses, other refugees find themselves in a difficult situation. Without the opportunity to learn the Czech language, it will be more difficult for them to find employment in the labour market and integrate into our society.

**G:** What do you think of the claim that the cancellation of the courses is not a question of the budget, but rather a reluctance to invest in more qualified refugees in the city?

**N:** I believe that statement has considerable truth. Money to support the integration of refugees is available, but it seems to be getting lost somewhere. It is suspected that this money may be invested in companies that are linked to the city, instead of being used to support and integrate more skilled refugees.

**G:** Thank you, Mrs. Novak, for your testimony. Any other comments?



**N:** I just want to emphasise that it is important that we invest in the integration of refugees and give them the opportunity to join our society. In this way, we can strengthen our community and contribute to greater diversity and prosperity.

**G:** Thank you for your time, Ms. Novak.

## 21. Case: Light and shadow of a media campaign

**Witness:** Ahmad Al-Mansour

**George (G):** Hello Mr. Al-Mansour. Thank you for coming. Could you please tell us about your experience with the recent negative media campaign?

**Witness (A):** Hello. Yes, glad to. I was the target of completely unfounded accusations that came from my business. Fake news about substandard food and scams hurt me financially and led to social isolation. Even though I was later cleared of all charges, the damage to my reputation and business was significant.

**G:** Do you suspect who might have been behind the fake news?

**A:** es, I'm convinced that someone they call the "Lord of the Shadows" is behind it all. I don't know exactly who he is, but it seems to me that this person has considerable influence over business in the city and may be responsible for spreading misinformation.

**G:** What do you think about the way the media presents refugees?

**A:** Some media present refugees negatively, often without any evidence. This is a big problem that leads to unfounded accusations and negative attitudes in society. It is important that we think about the influence the media has on public opinion about refugees and the impact this has on their lives.

**G:** Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Al-Mansour. You have provided us with very important information.

## 22. Case: The danger of radical opinions in public space

**Witness:** George Novak

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Novak. Thank you for coming. Could you please describe your experience with the organisation "Protection of the Home" and their meetings?

**Witness (N):** Hello. Yes of course. I attended one of the events of this organisation and I must say that I was very concerned. Although the organisation pretends to focus on the protection of homes and traditions, in reality, their meetings are heavily influenced by radical views that undermine multiculturalism and emphasise national sovereignty.

**G:** What was your impression of this event?

**N:** I had the feeling that extremism and hatred of foreigners were spreading there. Many participants presented views that I found very dangerous and hostile to other cultures. I think it's important that we have an open discussion about these topics, but this action has gone too far.

**G:** What do you think about the topic of migration and multiculturalism?

**N:** I think it is a complex topic that requires a reasonable and open discussion. It is important to protect our values and culture, but at the same time respect and accept other cultures. However, extreme attitudes and hatred towards foreigners will not lead to any constructive solution.

**G:** Do you have any suspicions about who might be behind this radicalised movement?

**N:** Yes, I believe that someone who is interested in undermining stability and peace in society may be behind it. He may be the mysterious person behind the nickname "Lord of the Shadows", but that's just my speculation.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Novak, for your testimony. Your information is very valuable for the investigation of this matter.

**N:** You're very welcome.

### **23. Case: About obstacles and the strength of threads**

**Witness:** Peter Fousek

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Fousek. Thank you for coming here. Could you please describe the situation regarding the recent withdrawal of financial support for organisations supporting migrants?



**Witness (F):** Hello. Yes, glad to. The city government recently cancelled financial support for organisations supporting migrants, which resulted in the cancellation of some events such as the Festival of International Cuisine or the International Folkloric Dance Competition. This decision fundamentally threatens our projects and activities in the "Centre for Support and Integration".

**G:** What impact does this situation have on migrants in the process of integration?

**F:** This situation has a very negative impact on migrants. Losing financial support means limiting access to important services and activities that help them integrate into our society. Without these projects, migrants have much less opportunity to get involved in city life and get to know new cultures.

**G:** Do you have any suspicions about who might have been interested in cancelling this financial support?

**F:** Yes, I believe that someone powerful who pulls the strings in the city may be behind it. The city's arguments about unplanned renovations, which are presented as a higher priority, seem suspect to me. I think that all the money that the city gives out only goes to companies that are connected to someone that people call the "Lord of the Shadows", but I don't know exactly who he is. I suspect that this mysterious shadow lord is influencing not only the cancellation of our financial support but also public contracts in the city.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Fousek, for your testimony. Your information is very valuable to our investigation.

## 24. Case: Music in front of the curtain of silence

**Witness:** John Blair

**George (G):** Hello Mr. Blair. Thank you for coming to the interview. I would like to discuss with you the situation regarding the music club in your neighbourhood. Please can you tell us what's going on?

**Witness (B):** Hello. Yes, I have heard about these problems. It is true that the music from the club is very loud and sometimes lasts until late at night. I think it can be disturbing for people living around the club.

**G:** Do you have any information about who is behind these actions? Who runs this club?

**B:** To be honest, I don't know exactly who owns this club. I heard it belongs to one of the local councillors, but I'm not sure. I have never met any of the owners of the club in person.

**G:** I understand. Can you describe how often these noisy events take place and how disruptive they are to you and your neighbours?

**B:** Sometimes I hear music on weekends, especially in the evening. It's not every week, but when it is, it's really loud and annoying, especially for people who live directly above the club.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Blair, for your testimony. If you have any further information regarding this club or its owner, please let us know. We will investigate this matter thoroughly. Do you allow us to contact you by phone?

**B:** Yes, of course. I would like to help resolve this situation.

## **25. Case: Will there or will not be there the Shadow City Carnival?**

**Witness:** Andrej Turek

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Turek. Thank you for coming to the interview. I would like to discuss with you the situation regarding your cultural event, the Shadow City Carnival. Could you describe to us what happened?

**Witness (T):** Hello. Yes, I am very disappointed with the local council's handling of my event. They cancelled my contract without any notice, claiming they didn't have the funds to support the Shadow City Carnival. However, to my great concern, the local town hall subsequently entered into an agreement with another company that has connections with some members of the city administration. This new company is tasked with organising the event for a much higher amount than would be needed to support the original project.

**G:** Do you have any suspicions as to who might have been behind this decision by the town hall? Do you know someone in particular who has ties to the new company?

**T:** Unfortunately, I don't have direct evidence, but it seems to me that the city hall somehow tunnels public contracts. I don't know the specific people from the new company, but I suspect that behind this move may be members of the city administration who are interested in personal gain.

**G:** I understand. Thank you, Mr. Turek, for your testimony. We will investigate this matter thoroughly. If you learn of any additional information regarding this case, please let us know. Do you allow us to contact you by phone?

**T:** Yes, of course. I want the situation to be clarified and the transparency of the town hall's decision-making to be restored.

## 26. Case: Citizens against concrete oases

**Witness:** Michael Bird

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Bird. Thank you for coming. I would like to ask for your comment on your recent statement regarding City Hall's plans to rezone the park.

**Witness (B):** Yes, of course. I am very concerned about the direction the situation around our city park is going. The city hall is trying to sell part of the park to the developer UrbanLand, who plans to build office buildings. However, this raises strong suspicions of corruption and lack of transparency.

**G:** Can you be more specific about your concerns?

**B:** Yes, I'd like to. Robert King, owner of UrbanLand Development, is known for his political connections. There seems to be a connection between him and members of the city leadership. I seriously suspect that this change in the park's zoning plan is more favourable to the interests of less transparent businessmen than to the needs of citizens.

**G:** Do you have any concrete evidence or information regarding this connection?

**B:** Unfortunately, I don't have direct evidence, but from my many years of experience in environmental protection and monitoring urban development, I have a strong suspicion that some Lord of the Shadows may be behind all of this. It should be someone with influence who works behind the scenes.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Bird, for your testimony. We will investigate this matter thoroughly.

**B:** Thank you. I hope that the truth will be revealed, and that the city park will remain protected for future generations.

## 27. Case: Public money drowned in dangerous cycle paths: Who profited from it?

**Witness:** Robert Blanda

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Blanda. Thank you for coming. Could you please describe your concerns about the construction of bike paths in the city in more detail?

**Witness (B):** Yes, I'm glad. Our organisation Safe Roads deals with road traffic safety and the fight against risks for cyclists. The cycle paths that have been recently built are, in our opinion, extremely dangerous for cyclists. They are placed in traffic between cars and are not connected, which increases the risk of accidents.

**G:** What do you suspect is the motivation behind these dangerous bike lanes?

**B:** There is speculation that these bike paths may have been built for public procurement tunnelling. It is not clear who is behind these decisions, but it seems that someone from the local town hall may have been interested in funding these projects, which were beneficial to certain companies.

**G:** Can you be more specific about linking these projects to city hall members or businesses?

**B:** Unfortunately, I don't have direct evidence of specific people or companies, but the public money drowned in these dangerous cycle paths raises serious questions about the transparency and management of the city's finances.

**G:** Did you have any suspicions that some hidden figure, such as the Lord of the Shadows, might be behind these decisions?

**B:** There is speculation about such a figure, but I don't know who it might be. There is even talk of Mrs. Shadows. The situation requires a thorough investigation to reveal the truth about who is behind this misuse of public funds.

**G:** Thank you, Mr. Blanda, for your testimony. We will investigate this matter carefully and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

**B:** Thank you. I hope that the truth will be revealed and the safety of our cyclists in the city will be ensured.

## 28. Case: Volavka provokes defiance

**Witness:** Mirek. Heron

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Heron. Thank you for coming. Could you please give us more details regarding your concerns regarding the abuse of power by councillors in the case of awarding the contract to InnoTech Solutions s.r.o.?

**Witness (H):** Yes, of course. Recently, I have begun to seriously suspect that some members of the City Hall management are involved in a conflict of interest in the awarding of public contracts. The company InnoTech Solutions s.r.o., which was awarded the contract, allegedly has close ties with some members of the town hall.

**G:** Can you be more specific about the suspicion of a conflict of interest between the councillors and the company InnoTech Solutions s.r.o.?

**H:** The problem is that the city hall did not act in a timely manner in assessing and transparently informing the public about this decision. Now they are trying to cover up the whole case and avoid responsibility. I have a reasonable suspicion that someone from the management of the town hall is behind this action, but I do not yet know the specific person.

**G:** In what way is the town hall trying to cover up this case?

**H:** City Hall is avoiding public discussion and downplaying the issue. Instead of acting transparently and responsibly, they seem to be trying to sweep this case under the rug.

**G:** Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Heron. We will investigate this matter carefully and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

**H:** Thank you. I hope that the truth about this conflict of interest can be revealed and transparent actions in our local government can be ensured.

## 29. Case: How much do Christmas markets cost?

**Witness:** Johnny Jameson

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Jameson. Thank you for coming. Could you please describe in detail what happened regarding your participation in the Christmas markets?



**Witness (J):** Yes, of course. I was shocked by what happened. I was unethically approached by a senior official during negotiations to secure a sales location at the Christmas markets. This official demanded a bribe in exchange for securing a selling point in the markets.

**G:** Can you tell us who specifically contacted you with this unethical proposal?

**J:** Unfortunately, I don't know this person's name. It was a high official, but I don't know his identity. Everyone talks about him as the Lord of the Shadows, but I don't know who he is.

**G:** How did you react to this unethical proposal?

**J:** I was surprised and outraged. These practices undermine fairness in public business opportunities, and it is important that these hidden sides of dealings are discussed publicly.

**G:** Thank you for your testimony. We will thoroughly investigate this matter and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

**J:** Thank you. I hope that the truth about these unethical practices will be revealed, and that transparency and fairness will be restored in our city.

### **30. Case: Shadow City Carnival will happen. The town hall concludes contracts behind the scenes!**

**Witness:** Andrej Turek

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Turek. Thank you for coming. Can you please tell us what happened regarding your cultural event Shadow City Carnival?

**Witness (T):** Yes, of course. I was absolutely devastated when the local town hall cancelled my contract to support the Shadow City Carnival due to a lack of funding. However, I subsequently found out that the city hall concluded a favourable agreement with another company that is connected to some members of the city management.

**G:** Can you tell us which specific company made this new agreement with the town hall?

**T:** Unfortunately, I don't know the name of this company. It's part of a backroom deal that I'm only now learning about. I was surprised by this turn of events.

**G:** What do you think about a new company holding an event for a higher amount than the originally promised support of your project?

**T:** It is very disturbing. The whole situation has caused public outrage and raised doubts about the transparency of the local town hall's decision-making.

**G:** Do you have any suspicions as to who might be behind this dishonesty?

**T:** I don't know the specific names, but it is speculated that there is a group of people connected to the city leadership who are behind these decisions. There are rumours of the so-called Lord of the Shadows and even Mrs. Shadows having a hand in the game.

**G:** Thank you for your testimony. We will continue to investigate to find the truth about these events and ensure transparency and fairness in our city.

**T:** Thank you. I hope that the truth about these behind-the-scenes deals will be revealed and trust in public institutions will be restored.

### **31. Case: Shadow City Carnival will happen. The town hall concludes contracts behind the scenes!**

**Witness:** Robert Redford

**George (G):** Hello, Mr. Redford. Thank you for coming. What made you decide to testify about the events at City Hall?

**Witness (R):** Hello. I am very concerned about recent reports of City Hall officials using public funds for luxury foreign trips under the pretext of business trips.

**G:** Can you be more specific? What did you find out about these trips?

**R:** According to our records, obtained directly from City Hall, we have found that officials are going on trips to exotic destinations that are not in line with the nature of their job duties. Instead of solving local problems, officials appear to be using public money for luxury vacations.

**G:** How do you think this finding affects local citizens?

**R:** I think it is very unacceptable and unethical. Public funds should be used to benefit the local community, not to fund luxury travel for officials. This misuse of public funds undermines citizens' trust in local government.

**G:** What do you think should be done to address the situation?

**R:** It is necessary to establish transparent processes and control over the use of public funds. Officials should be accountable for their journeys and the public should have access to information about the use of public funds.

**G:** Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Redford. Your information is very important to the ongoing investigation.

**R:** Thank you. I hope that the situation will be clarified soon, and that the local government will act in accordance with the principles of responsible and transparent management.

## List of witnesses for players

### Passwords for individual interviews:

#### Case 1: Violation of women's rights in the city and the situation around Mayor Jessica Brown

**Witness:** Peter Tit

**Task:** There are 20 people in the room and everyone shakes hands with everyone. How many handshakes will occur?

**Password:**

---

#### Case 2: Violations of women's rights in the city and the situation concerning the Union team

**Whitness:** Emilie Just

**Task:** It's going up and down, but it's not moving. What is it?

**Password:**

---

#### Case 3: The "Girls in STEM" project and the mayor's accusations of tunneling public procurement

**Whitness:** Mark Long

**Task:** Which month of the year has 28 days?

**Password:**

---

#### Case 4: Samantha Gonzales and Robert Briggs - Information on Texmex holding LTD

**Whitness:** Michael Rodriguez.

**Task:** If your uncle's sister is not your aunt, what is she to you?

**Password:**

---

#### Case 5: Violations of women's rights and changes in the media

**Whitness:** Eveline Houda



**Task:** It fills the whole room, but takes up no space. What is it?

**Password:**

---

**Case 6: The influence of the "Lord of the Shadow" in companies winning public contracts**

**Whitiness:** David Bahnik

**Task:** You enter a room with matches, a kerosene lamp, a candle and a fireplace. What must you light first?

**Password:**

---

**Case 7: The influence of the "Lord of Shadows" and the tunneling of public procurement**

**Whitiness (N):** Tomas New

**Task:** It's always in front of you, but you can't see it. What is it?

**Password:**

---

**Case 8: The influence of the "Lord of Shadows" and the tunneling of public procurement**

**Whitiness (F):** Martina Flanderck

**Task:** It has cities, but not houses. It has mountains, but not trees. It has rivers, but no fish. What is it?

**Password:**

---

**Case 9: Magical Artifact - The Key to the City and the influence of the "Lord of Shadows"**

**Whitiness:** Robert Ford

**Task:** Paul's mother has three sons. The first is named Monday, the second Tuesday. What is the name of the third?

**Password:**

---

**Case 10: Central Park**

**Whitiness:** Robert King



**Task:** What number do you get when you multiply all the digits on the phone?

**Password:**

---

**Case 11: UrbanLand Development**

**Whitness:** Jacob Volunteer

**Task:** What can you hold only in your right hand and never in your left?

**Password:**

---

**Case 12: GreenWheels, Inc. vs. Shadow City**

**Whitness:** Radek Grove

**Task:** A woman has four daughters and each of them has one brother. How many children does the woman have?

**Password:**

---

**Case 13: Fire at the landfill**

**Whitness:** Steven Heatly

**Task:** What's so delicate that if we even say it, we destroy it?

**Password:**

---

**Case 14: Fire at the landfill**

**Whitness:** John Miller

**Task:** It's thrown out to be used, and dragged in to stop being used. What is it?

**Password:**

---

**Case 15: Homeless Lucas Branik**

**Whitness:** Lucas Branik



**Task:** No task

**Password:**

---

**Case 16: Rent prices of shops in the city**

**Whitness:** Peter Freedom

**Task:** Two days ago my age was 21 and next year I will be 24. What day of the year was I born?

**Password:**

---

**Case 17: The case of CityBuilders a.s.**

**Whitness:** John Wolf

**Task:** The plane crashed right on the border of France and Germany. Where were the survivors buried?

**Password:**

---

**Case 18: Shadows at Town Hall**

**Whitness:** Monica Blacksmith

**Task:** The grandmother left half of her savings to her granddaughter and half of that amount to her grandson. She left a sixth to her brother and donated the remaining 1,000 euros to a dog shelter. What was the total amount she left?

**Password:**

---

**Case 19: Delayed Payment of Education Support**

**Whitness:** Pavlina Stepanek

**Task:** Two ducks stand in front of two other ducks, two stand behind two other ducks, and two stand next to two other ducks. How many ducks are there in total?

**Password:**



---

**Case 20: Harsh effects of cancelling education courses on refugees**

**Whitness:** Alena Novak

**Task:** It's got a neck, but it doesn't have a head. What's that?

**Password:**

---

**Case 21: Light and shadow of a media campaign**

**Whitness:** Ahmad Al-Mansour

**Task:** It travels around the world without coming out of its corner. What is it?

**Password:**

---

**Case 22: The danger of radical opinions in public space**

**Whitness:** George Novak

**Task:** If you are standing 10 metres away from a door and with each movement towards the door you reduce the distance by half, after how many movements will you reach the door completely?

**Password:**

---

**Case 23: About obstacles and the strength of threads**

**Whitness:** Peter Fousek

**Task:** It's only where there's light, but it disappears if the light is directly focused on it. What's that?

**Password:**

---

**Case 24: Music in front of the curtain of silence**

**Whitness:** John Blair





**Task:** Which weighs more, a kilogram of iron or a kilogram of feathers?

**Password:**

---

**Case 25: Will there or will not be there the Shadow City Carnival?**

**Whitness:** Andrej Turek

**Task:** The farmer has 17 sheep and sells all but nine. How many sheep does he have left?

**Password:**

---

**Case 26: Citizens against concrete oases**

**Whitness:** Michael Bird

**Task:** A grandmother, two mothers and two daughters went to the theatre together. How many tickets did they have to buy?

**Password:**

---

**Case 27: Public money drowned in dangerous cycle paths: Who profited from it?**

**Whitness:** Robert Blanda

**Task:** What has a neck but no head?

**Password:**

---

**Case 28: Volavka provokes defiance**

**Whitness:** Mirek Heron

**Task:** Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?

**Password:**

---



**Case 29: How much do Christmas markets cost?**

**Whitness:** Johnny Jameson

**Task:** Which building can you associate the most stories with?

**Password:**

---

**Case 30: Shadow City Carnival will happen. The town hall concludes contracts behind the scenes!**

**Whitness:** Andrej Turek

**Task:** How many bananas can you eat on an empty stomach?

**Password:**

---

**Case 31: Shadow City Carnival will happen. The town hall concludes contracts behind the scenes!**

**Whitness:** Robert Redford

**Task:** Which three positive numbers have the same sum and times product?

**Password:**

## List of witnesses with passwords

### Passwords for individual interviews:

#### Case 1: Violation of women's rights in the city and the situation around Mayor Jessica Brown

**Witness:** Peter Tit

**Task:** There are 20 people in the room and everyone shakes hands with everyone. How many handshakes will occur?

**Password:** 190 (19+18+17...)

---

#### Case 2: Violations of women's rights in the city and the situation concerning the Union team

**Witness:** Emilie Just

**Task:** It's going up and down, but it's not moving. What is it?

**Password:** Staircase

---

#### Case 3: The "Girls in STEM" project and the mayor's accusations of tunneling public procurement

**Witness:** Mark Long

**Task:** Which month of the year has 28 days?

**Password:** All

---

#### Case 4: Samantha Gonzales and Robert Briggs - Information on Texmex holding LTD

**Witness:** Michael Rodriguez.

**Task:** If your uncle's sister is not your aunt, what is she to you?

**Password:** Mother

---

#### Case 5: Violations of women's rights and changes in the media

**Witness:** Eveline Houda

**Task:** It fills the whole room, but takes up no space. What is it?



**Password: Light**

---

**Case 6: The influence of the "Lord of the Shadow" in companies winning public contracts**

**Whitness:** David Bahnik

**Task:** You enter a room with matches, a kerosene lamp, a candle and a fireplace. What must you light first?

**Password: Match**

---

**Case 7: The influence of the "Lord of Shadows" and the tunneling of public procurement**

**Whitness (N):** Tomas New

**Task:** It's always in front of you, but you can't see it. What is it?

**Password: The Future**

---

**Case 8: The influence of the "Lord of Shadows" and the tunneling of public procurement**

**Whitness (F):** Martina Flanderck

**Task:** It has cities, but not houses. It has mountains, but not trees. It has rivers, but no fish. What is it?

**Password: Map**

---

**Case 9: Magical Artifact - The Key to the City and the influence of the "Lord of Shadows"**

**Whitness:** Robert Ford

**Task:** Paul's mother has three sons. The first is named Monday, the second Tuesday. What is the name of the third?

**Password: Paul**

---

**Case 10: Central Park**

**Whitness:** Robert King



**Task:** What number do you get when you multiply all the digits on the phone?

**Password:** 0, since 0 will be one of the factors.

---

**Case 11: UrbanLand Development**

**Whitness:** Jacob Volunteer

**Task:** What can you hold only in your right hand and never in your left?

**Password:** your left hand

---

**Case 12: GreenWheels, Inc. vs. Shadow City**

**Whitness:** Radek Grove

**Task:** A woman has four daughters and each of them has one brother. How many children does the woman have?

**Password:** 5

---

**Case 13: Fire at the landfill**

**Whitness:** Steven Heatly

**Task:** What's so delicate that if we even say it, we destroy it?

**Password:** Silence

---

**Case 14: Fire at the landfill**

**Whitness:** John Miller

**Task:** It's thrown out to be used, and dragged in to stop being used. What is it?

**Password:** Anchor

---

**Case 15: Homeless Lucas Branik**

**Whitness:** Lucas Branik

**Task:** No task



**Password: No password**

---

**Case 16: Rent prices of shops in the city**

**Whitness:** Peter Freedom

**Task:** Two days ago my age was 21 and next year I will be 24. What day of the year was I born?

**Password: December 21**

---

**Case 17: The case of CityBuilders a.s.**

**Whitness:** John Wolf

**Task:** The plane crashed right on the border of France and Germany. Where were the survivors buried?

**Password: Nowhere**

---

**Case 18: Shadows at Town Hall**

**Whitness:** Monica Blacksmith

**Task:** The grandmother left half of her savings to her granddaughter and half of that amount to her grandson. She left a sixth to her brother and donated the remaining 1,000 euros to a dog shelter. What was the total amount she left?

**Password: 12 000, since the shares to family members can be entered as  $6/12 + 3/12 + 2/12 = 11/12$ , and the 1 000 euro shelter is therefore  $1/12$  of the total amount**

---

**Case 19: Delayed Payment of Education Support**

**Whitness:** Pavlina Stepanek

**Task:** Two ducks stand in front of two other ducks, two stand behind two other ducks, and two stand next to two other ducks. How many ducks are there in total?

**Password: Four, lined up in a square**

---

**Case 20: Harsh effects of cancelling education courses on refugees**

**Whitness:** Alena Novak

**Task:** It's got a neck, but it doesn't have a head. What's that?

**Password:** Guittar

---

**Case 21: Light and shadow of a media campaign**

**Whitness:** Ahmad Al-Mansour

**Task:** It travels around the world without coming out of its corner. What is it?

**Password:** Postage stamp

---

**Case 22: The danger of radical opinions in public space**

**Whitness:** George Novak

**Task:** If you are standing 10 metres away from a door and with each movement towards the door you reduce the distance by half, after how many movements will you reach the door completely?

**Password:** Never

---

**Case 23: About obstacles and the strength of threads**

**Whitness:** Peter Fousek

**Task:** It's only where there's light, but it disappears if the light is directly focused on it. What's that?

**Password:** Shadow

---

**Case 24: Music in front of the curtain of silence**

**Whitness:** John Blair



**Task:** Which weighs more, a kilogram of iron or a kilogram of feathers?

**Password:** they weigh the same 1kg

---

**Case 25: Will there or will not be there the Shadow City Carnival?**

**Whitness:** Andrej Turek

**Task:** The farmer has 17 sheep and sells all but nine. How many sheep does he have left?

**Password:** 9

---

**Case 26: Citizens against concrete oases**

**Whitness:** Michael Bird

**Task:** A grandmother, two mothers and two daughters went to the theatre together. How many tickets did they have to buy?

**Password:** 3, because the grandmother is also the mother and the mother is also the daughter

---

**Case 27: Public money drowned in dangerous cycle paths: Who profited from it?**

**Whitness:** Robert Blanda

**Task:** What has a neck but no head?

**Password:** Bottle

---

**Case 28: Volavka provokes defiance**

**Whitness:** Mirek Heron

**Task:** Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?

**Password:** Mt. Everest

---





**Case 29: How much do Christmas markets cost?**

**Whitness:** Johny Jameson

**Task:** Which building can you associate the most stories with?

**Password:** with the library

---

**Case 30: Shadow City Carnival will happen. The town hall concludes contracts behind the scenes!**

**Whitness:** Andrej Turek

**Task:** How many bananas can you eat on an empty stomach?

**Password:** one, then it won't be empty

---

**Case 31: Shadow City Carnival will happen. The town hall concludes contracts behind the scenes!**

**Whitness:** Robert Redford

**Task:** Which three positive numbers have the same sum and times product?

**Password:** 1,2,3



## Ancient parchment

### Ancient Alchemist's Parchment

Dear children of destiny,

Hear the words of wise elders handed down to us by generations of the past. In this world where light and shadow collide, there exists a powerful artefact known as the key to the city. This artefact is linked to the fate of the city and its people.

The key to the city is not just an ordinary piece of metal. It is a magical artefact whose power lies in three basic ingredients: money, influence, and people. Only when these three ingredients are properly combined will the key to the city be unlocked and its power will show.

Money is the basis of economy and power. Used correctly, money can change the fate of a city and its people.

Influence is the power that can influence decisions and events.

But don't forget the people - they are the heart and soul of the city. Without their support and unity, the key to the city will be unattainable.

So, take this wisdom with you on your journey. Look for money, influence, and people around you. This is the only way you can get the key to the city and change the fate not only of the city itself but also of the whole world.

May luck accompany you on your journey.

Edward Talbot

## Tasks for players

Draw a design for a set of 5 Shadow City postage stamps	followers
Give old thing a new meaning	followers
Create an origami plant or animal	followers
Prepare and perform a show of 3 cheerleaders for the girls' soccer team	followers
Arrange 9 numbers in a square so that their sum in all directions is 24	followers
Perform one of the ballroom dances	followers
Create an egg case without using any clothing so that it can be thrown in a way that it touches the ceiling and then falls back to the ground without breaking	followers
Draw a poster for the Shadow City Carnival	money
Draw a newspaper comic about corruption in the city	money
Bring wood to build a bridge	money
Draw a floor-by-floor map of the school	money
Make three twelve-step ladders of nouns that begin with the letters a, u, and d	money
Find pieces of paper marked Wood, stone, and clay in the school (5 pieces of each) so you gain a building material	money
Write 100 words starting with the letter Z	money
Prepare a presentation of the culture of another non-EU nation for the Integration centre (flag, religion, interest, culture)	Influence
Build a bridge between two tables using the wood and cardboard you brought to transport a ball between them	Influence
Write a short story or short article about the importance of electrifying public transport in the city	Influence
Do a good deed	Influence
Get a stamp and a signature of the school principal or his representative	Influence
Get 100 signatures from people at school (how and why is up to you)	Influence
Suggest 10 actions that will bring a change in the situation in the city	Influence

## Tasks for players instructions for teachers

	TASK	INGREDIENCE	POINTS
1	Draw a design for a set of 5 Shadow City postage stamps	followers	1 Follower point per each set of 5 Shadow City postage stamps
2	Give old thing a new meaning	followers	1 Follower point per each old thing with new meaning
4	Create an origami plant or animal	followers	1 Follower point per each origami of animal or plant species
6	Prepare and perform a show of 3 cheerleaders for the girls' soccer team	followers	1 Follower point per show
12	Arrange 9 numbers in a square so that their sum in all directions is 24	followers	1 Follower point per unique solution
15	Perform one of the ballroom dances	followers	1 Follower point per each ballroom dance
19	Create an egg case without using any clothing so that it can be thrown in a way that it touches the ceiling and then falls back to the ground without breaking	followers	1 Follower point per unbroken egg
3	Draw a poster for the Shadow City Carnival	money	1 Money point per each poster
5	Draw a newspaper comic about corruption in the city	money	1 Money point per each comic
8	Bring wood to build a bridge	money	1 Money point per each 100 skewers
13	Draw a floor-by-floor map of the school	money	1 Money point per each map
16	Make three twelve-step ladders of nouns that begin with the letters a, u, and d	money	1 Money point per each set of three ladders (ladder means - a, an, any, auto, ... up to word starting a with 12 letters)

17	Find pieces of paper marked Wood, stone, and clay in the school (5 pieces of each) so you gain a building material	money	1 Money point per each set papers (5x WOOD, 5x CLAY, 5x STONE)
18	Write 100 words starting with the letter Z	money	1 Money point per each 100 words
7	Prepare a presentation of the culture of another non-EU nation for the Integration centre (flag, religion, interest, culture)	Influence	1 Influence point per each presentation
9	Build a bridge between two tables using the wood and cardboard you brought to transport a ball between them	Influence	1 Influence point per bridge after tennis ball is transported through the bridge
10	Write a short story or short article about the importance of electrifying public transport in the city	Influence	1 Influence point per each article
11	Do a good deed	Influence	1 Influence point per each good deed
14	Get a stamp and a signature of the school principal or his representative	Influence	1 Influence point per each stamp with signature
20	Get 100 signatures from people at school (how and why is up to you)	Influence	1 Influence point per each 100 signatures
21	Suggest 10 actions that will bring a change in the situation in the city	Influence	1 Influence point per each 10 actions presented

