

Maribor, 14. 12. 2022

SHADOW PANDEMIC: HIDDEN VOICES
Playwright's College

As part of the international project Shadow Pandemic: Hidden Voices, which we are implementing together with the Zagreb Youth Theatre and the Belgrade Drama Theatre, a playwright's college on the topic of (increased) violence against women during the coronavirus pandemic took place yesterday at the SNG Maribor. The dramaturge Ivana Vuković, together with her guests Jernja Turin, consultant-analyst at the Centre for Human Rights - Ombudsman, Marinka Dobrajc, social worker at the Centre for Social Work Maribor and Ana Lah, journalist at Večer, shed light on the pressing issue from several angles. The speakers agreed that feminism is still deeply rooted in our social system and that gender inequalities start at a very early age. They pointed out that there is not enough systemic work on the issue and that women often do not report violence because of the shame that still exists in society and the lengthy procedures that follow reporting. But also because their standard of living does not allow them to leave. In the second part of the discussion, they touched on art and theatre, which plays an important social role and can also draw attention to the problem through the choice of the theme of a theatre performance. In order for a play to be authentic, it seems essential that the authors meet the victims, interview the stakeholders involved and are able to look at the issue from a broader perspective. The playwright should first establish his/her own attitude towards violence, what is acceptable and what is not acceptable to him/her, and maintain zero tolerance towards all forms of violence.