

WHAT EXACTLY  
MEANS MORAL  
COURAGE?

**CLIL WEEK**

11.02.2019 – 13.02.2019

**MORAL COURAGE  
IS THE HIGHEST  
EXPRESSION OF  
HUMANITY**

RALPH NADER

IS MORAL  
COURAGE  
IMPORTANT?

WHAT MEANS  
MORAL  
COURAGE TO  
US?



**A Tribute  
to Moral  
Courage:**  
Standing Up  
Against Injustice

**HANDOUT**

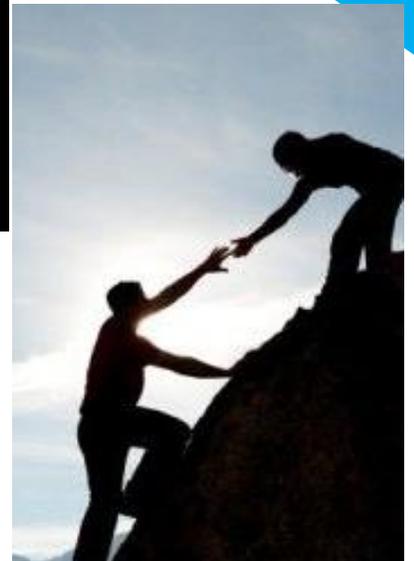
**MORAL  
COURAGE -  
SOCIETY**

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**2018/2019**

**It's easy  
to stand with  
the crowd.  
It takes  
Courage  
to stand alone.**



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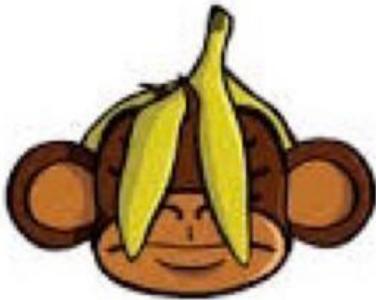
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see  
nothing



hear  
nothing



say  
nothing

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

We chose the topic moral courage - society because we are of the opinion that moral courage in public and in society is the most important topic and it is more in common than ever. Unfortunately, when a person gets in danger, many people are not showing moral courage in any kind of way. But the question is: Why are people not helping each other? Why they are afraid of showing moral courage?

We are going to write about the moral courage more in detail. First of all, it is to mention that there are seven different topics where moral courage is in common and there are also seven groups. Each group started with brainstorming with one topic and after 20 minutes we were changing the topic. At the end, every group had a brainstorming on every topic. The reason, why we did this, is because if each group would work on only one topic, the other topics would not have so much information and a lot of ideas would be lost.

Gender gap, women as entrepreneurs, religion and different minorities are only some of a lot of topics on which we will refer. This topic occurs us in every day, at every place and it is going to be more intensive than ever especially now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*It is curious-  
CURIOUS  
that  
PHYSICAL  
courage  
should be so  
COMMON  
in the world and  
MORAL  
courage  
SO RARE.* Mark Twain

## 2. MORAL COURAGE

The word civil courage is composed of the two words moral and courage. Today, moral courage is understood as acting against or for the prevailing opinion with which the individual, without regard for himself, forms his/her personal values or the values of the public.

Moral courage is known as a visible resistance from conviction. The opposite of civil courage are false safety thinking and resignation, but also moral decay and indifference. It is the onlooker who takes no responsibility and does not help and stand by when people are threatened in their dignity or in need. The opposite of moral courage is the “responsibility diffusion” that grows with the number of contributors involved. It also means how much attention a person pays to moral issues. How strongly they tend to react with negative emotions when they experience injustice? How strong is the impulse to have to intervene immediately in certain situations?

### DEFINITION

The definition says that courage is when someone proves by representing human (human rights, justice) and democratic values in society regardless of any consequences.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO US?

For us it is very important because with the help of moral courage you can support the weaker. It is to mention that you also feel safer in the society. There is a quote which says, if you help someone, that you will also get a help when you need it. When you are doing something with a good mind, you will also get the good things back. We are pretty sure that the most important reason why moral courage is important to us is to say your own opinion “loud and to everyone” without any fear that someone is going to hate you because you have another opinion than he/she.

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# WHAT DOES MORAL COURAGE MEANS TO US?

First and foremost it means for us to help and support people who are not in the position to defend themselves. Furthermore, it is also about having the courage to present your point of view/your opinion openly without fear that someone is going to bull or hate you. This also includes to say what is against your opinion or if someone acts in a wrong way. Another aspect which refers to moral courage is to stand up for someone, but to act in a way to put yourself not in danger. In addition to this we should treat everybody in a respectful way as we want to get treated by others. It has to be mentioned, that you should help older people to cross the street or pick something up for someone who is maybe not able to do this.

# TO BE A “CHICKEN” – WHEN?

First of all, you have to weigh up each situation individually. Moreover it is advisable to not to get involved in every situation. Otherwise, you can put yourself in very serious danger. But first, try to calm down the situation with talking. If it is not going to be better, you can call the police and you already helped. Try not to get involved in a situation when there are weapons like knives.

# WHY DO SO LESS PEOPLE ACT?

Many people are very busy which affects their attention referring to their surroundings. Especially in bigger cities or metropolis there is a common effect. It is called the “overload” effect. The definition says that people suffer from sensory overload shows less moral courage than people who don’t suffer from this. Another aspect why people do not act is, that they are with other people who be ashamed of them when they will show moral courage. In addition to this they tell them, that they should not act and maybe also that their behavior could have consequences.

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## 3. GENDER GAP

It is the differences between women and men especially as reflected in social, political, intellectual, cultural or economic attainments or attitudes. It occurs us also in every-day life, but especially at workplaces. It is to mention that now the situation is better than in the past, because the number of women in leadership positions is rising, not so high, but it's rising and now there are more women in leadership positions than in the past.

## HOW TO AVOID GENDER GAP?

There are **seven steps to decrease gender pay gap**:

1. **Step:** Governmental Interference. Companies are forced to make data public on: % male employees, % female employees, % gender pay gap. Iceland has become the first country to Officially Require Gender Pay Equality. First country to accept a law what will require every company with 25 or more staff to gain a certificate demonstrating pay equality.
  2. **Step:** Enforce Paternity Leave. Men should take more paternity and shared parental leave. In Sweden shared parental leave has been in practice since 1974. Swedish parents are entitled to: 480 days of paid parental leave. Of those 90 days are reserved for the dad.
  3. **Step:** Subsidise Childcare. A free part-time nursery place should be available from when a child reaches nine months. The cost of childcare can be crippling for many families with an average part time nursery place now costing up to £6,000 a year. In Denmark and France child care is primarily a matter for the public sector, which provides day care to families of all incomes. In France, nearly all children ages 3 to 5 attend FREE pre-primary school.
  4. **Step:** Mentoring Programs. Offering Mentor programs where women would be taught on: How to negotiate theirs salary and working conditions. How to reconcile maternity and work. Companies should always provide both male and female mentors.
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5. **Step:** Transparency in Salary. Let everyone know what their colleagues are earning. Make women aware if they are making less than their male counterparts. Force organizations to establish a meritocracy. Make the gender gap problem self-correcting. Social sharing startup, BUFFER made all their employees' salary information public in the late 2013. Applications go up by 50% by the next month, attracting qualified workforce.
6. **Step:** Eliminate Negotiation. "Negotiation is a "man's game" and women are bad at it" – Ellen Pao, interim chief executive of Reddit. Instead of asking women to behave like men, just ban the practice. An internal audit showed that female employees were paid less and the company spent \$3 Million on adjustments to ensure pay equality.
7. **Step:** Promoting Female Entrepreneurship. Providing skills development and training could improve women market access and encourage their businesses to grow and become more stable. Women's Entrepreneurship Development (WED) programme has built the institutional capacity of public and private service providers and non-governmental organizations. Women entrepreneurs quadrupled their sales from \$490 to \$2,150.

**Current situation of female entrepreneurs in the EU:** women constitute 52% of the total European population but only 34.4% of the EU self-employed and 30% of start-up entrepreneurs. Female creativity and entrepreneurial potential are an under-exploited source of economic growth and jobs that should be further developed.

## GENDER EQUALITY

It is also known as sexual equality. It is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision – making, and the state of valuing different behaviors, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender.

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# WOMEN AS ENTREPRENEURS

There are only 1/3 female entrepreneurs of all entrepreneurs worldwide. An entrepreneur is a person who organizes and manages an enterprise, especially a business, usually with considerable initiative and risk.

The number of self-employed women has steadily increased over the past three decades.

Entrepreneurship has traditionally been defined as the process of designing, launching and running a new business. An Entrepreneur tend to be good at perceiving new business opportunities and they often exhibit positive things in their perception. It is also typically in control of a commercial undertaking, directing the factors of production – the human, financial and material resources.

Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, female operated small businesses as a way of supplementing their income. In many cases, they were trying to avoid poverty or were replacing the income from the loss of a spouse. Women became more involved in the business world only when the idea of women in business became palatable to the general public, however, this does not mean that there were no female entrepreneurs until that time.

Studies have shown that successful female entrepreneurs start their businesses as a second or third profession. Because of their previous careers, female entrepreneurs enter the business world later on in life (around 40 to 60 years old). According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor report, women are nearly one-third more likely to start businesses out of necessity than men. Because women are overtaking their male peers in the level of education obtained, having higher education degrees is one of the significant characteristics that many successful female entrepreneurs have in common. The average self-employment rate for women under 25 year old OECD countries is 7.2%.

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## 4. DIVERSITY AND MINORITY

Civil courage does not only consist of helping people who had an accident or help. For many people it is decisive which background depending on their origin, their sexual orientation or religion the “victim” belongs to. In every single case it is to say:

*Inclusion is not just a good idea – it is a human right!*

### RACISM

Generally speaking, it is to say that nobody of us can decide where we will be born into, especially a country or a nation. Some people had more luck in their life than others. This refers specifically to migrants. To put it in a nutshell, in our opinion it is equal which background a person has. The only thing that matters is to show everybody the same degree of respect, especially when they need help.

### HOMOPHOBIA

Basically, it is similar to the Racism. People who are homosexual or a Transgender, did not choose this kind of life. It is also not a disease or a mental illness. Everybody of us is different and we should be happy to live in a world full of diversity. According to statistics, around 7 percent of the population in Austria has been reported to be homosexual. Moreover, do not forget that unfortunately many of them had a rough past. Not everybody can handle with the fact that their child or friend has another sexual orientation and face away from them. Hence, we should get to know the people and do not make prejudice. Another opportunity to have a brief insight in this topic and to support minorities is to take part in the “Linzpride”. This is an event where everyone can take part in and celebrate together.

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# BULLYING

In our opinion, this topic is becoming more and more important in our society. Many of us believe that this could only happen in school, but there are also many adults who get humiliated at work. In the most cases this includes insult, fool and laugh about someone, but sometimes it is also getting violent. Possible reasons for this are that they maybe look or behave in a different way, or the bullies wants to distract himself, because he or she is not self-confident. To avoid bullying, you should stand up for the victims and to inform a third person or the parents.

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# 5. RESPECT & RESPECTFUL INTERACTION

In every single case, the most essential thing is to act in a respectful way. Every time you have to interact with people (equal if you know them or not) keep in mind to treat others only the way you want to be treated!

*Goodness is about character - integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like.  
More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people. ~ Dennis Prager*

## AVOID OR CALM FIGHTS

The most important thing, even it sounds selfish, is to estimate the danger for you. If the risk to get hurt is very low – act! Additionally to this it is to say that if the risk is too high, it does not mean you should not handle. You can call the police, if there is a fight or the emergency ambulance if an accident happened.

## LEAVE YOUR MOBILE PHONE AND HELP!

Another aspect to help people is to be more considerate referring to your surroundings. A good example for this is, if there is happening an accident you should not make photos or something similar. In addition it would not be legal, because without their agreement you are not allowed to make videos from people. On the other hand you can inform the emergency instead and maybe it will rescue someone's life!

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## 6. CONCLUSION & OPINION

To summarise our handout about moral courage referring to our society, it is to say that we are of the opinion that it does not matter or should not matter if the person has a cultural background, belongs to a minority of a religion or sexual orientation. It's important to help the person who is in danger without getting your own life in danger. It has also to be mentioned to know how you can help someone.

*Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right."*

Theodore Roosevelt

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