

# Moral Courage

CLIL-Project Topic: Friends

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# Moral courage

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„Stand up for what is right even if you stand alone”

*Suzy Kassem*

## Definition:

Moral courage is the courage to take action for moral reasons despite the risk of adverse consequences. Courage means to support a case, stand up for other people's rights and to take risks even though it could mean that you are in danger of suffering from disadvantages or becoming a victim yourself. Moral or civil means that you take these actions in everyday life in your free time and not in job life.

## Pros and cons of moral courage:

### Pros:

- strength of character
- help other people → it pushes your self-esteem
- do a good deed
- to gain respect in the society
- to strengthen your self-confidence
- karma
- if you are in a difficult situation you also expect help from others

### Cons:

- could have consequences for you
- sometimes you risk your own life
- you could also end up as a victim
- fear because you do not know what will happen next
- to underestimate the situation

### How moral courage affects our daily life's:

Moral courage comes in many shapes, sizes and forms. Especially in schools, workplaces and public places.

For example:

- standing up for equal rights
- reporting a crime
- participating a peaceful protest
- helping someone in different situations when other people need help
- confronting a bully → doing something against bullying
- stand up against racism and homophobia

### Why it is important:

Showing moral courage is not easy. However, at a time when populism is on the rise, civil courage and the ability to intervene on behalf of others are needed more than ever. There are many situations in life where moral courage is important.

For instance:

- to create a more equitable workplace
- to create a better society
- for leadership and business
- to create a better life for everybody
- to live together in a peaceful way

### When is it the right time to be a “chicken”?

First, you have to evaluate the situation and afterwards you have to weigh the possible risks and chances against each other. If you conclude that the risks are too high or if you do not know how to handle the situation you should not intervene.

The most important thing is that you believe yourself can withstand the situation.

# Friends

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As already mentioned before courage comes in different forms. One of the most vital is the moral courage in a friendship. Courage in a friendship means:

## Standing for each other:

- learning from and carrying for each other
- help each other in difficult situations
- doing something against bullying → confront the bully
- doing something against domestic violence

## Domestic violence:

If you notice domestic violence you should mention these points:

- talk to the victim
- work out solutions
- to show the victim that he/she does not have to be ashamed to talk about this problem
- to inform the youth welfare office

## Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment can happen at many locations. Therefore, it is necessary to see the signs of it.

If you notice that your friend is harassed at work, you should do:

- talk to the victim that he/she should report it
- report it to her boss
- if your friend is harassed from his/her boss go one instance higher

If you notice that your friend is harassed when you go out, you should do:

- break up the harassment
- in the worst case → call the police

The hashtag #metoo opened the eyes of people who did not notice that sexual harassment had such a great extent in the world. Based on this symbol for solidarity you can see that moral courage is also existing on social media.

### To raise awareness about moral courage within a group of friends

- talking and discussing about moral courage
- take an active part in charity associations like fire department, red cross...

### To promote propriety and honesty

- to have the opportunity to talk about everything
- all opinions and views have equal rights
- you should not be ashamed for anything
- give our honest opinion → say what you think
- assume responsibility and reliability

### Mutual support in different life situations

- settle a dispute
- courage to intervene
- give tutoring
- give good advises