

## AN INVITATION TO BRAVE SPACE



Together we will create *brave space*  
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space” —  
We exist in the real world  
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.  
In this space  
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,  
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,  
We call each other to more truth and love  
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to  
grow. We have the responsibility to examine what we  
think we know.  
We will not be perfect.  
This space will not be perfect.  
It will not always be what we wish it to be  
But  
It will be *our brave space together*,  
*and*  
*We will work on it side by side.*

by Micky ScottBey Jones

[www.thepeoplessupper.org](http://www.thepeoplessupper.org)

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Source: *Reaching for Common Higher Ground: Tools for Powerful Groups and Communities*.

Frank Dukes, Ph. D., Distinguished Institute Fellow  
Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia

Pair with “An Invitation to a Brave Space” PDF (print and cut, four per page). Text also copied below.

Do:

1. Read aloud the Invitation to a Brave Space
2. Invite people to think about groups that they have worked with who have been problematic, and what they looked, sounded, and felt like at their worst.
3. Invite them to think of either that group or another, and what they looked, sounded, and felt like at their best.
4. Invite them to think about the group that they are beginning, and what aspirations they have for how they will be together – How do they want to handle difference? How will they bring out the best in one another? – and ask them for those aspirations. Then for each aspiration, invite them to describe what actions it would take to make those aspirations real.

**Invitation to a Brave Space:** “Together we will create brave space Because there is no such thing as a “safe space” — We exist in the real world We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds. In this space We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world, We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere, We call each other to more truth and love We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow. We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know. We will not be perfect. This space will not be perfect. It will not always be what we wish it to be But It will be our brave space together, and We will work on it side by side.”

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