

Re: Gender-Neutral Human-form Emoji
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Link: [draft](#)

Summary

In completing the ability of vendors to show gender-neutral forms, there are basically 2 ways forward. We'd like to discuss this in the UTC and get a sense of which direction to take.

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Background

The UTC declined to add MERCURY, because the major goal for the MALE/FEMALE SIGNS was as emoji components for ZWJ sequences, and we didn't have a clear design for how MERCURY would serve for those zwj sequences. Moreover, once we look harder at the data, it appears MERCURY wouldn't necessarily solve the problem of representing gender-neutral forms.

By "gender-neutral humanform emoji" in this discussion, that means in accordance with [gender-neutral language](#). That means images styled like ADULT rather than MAN or WOMAN, *parent* rather than *father* or *mother*, etc. So a gender-neutral *doctor* image would not be styled like the *man doctor*, or the *woman doctor*, but rather have a design in accordance with whatever the vendor uses for ADULT.

Base	Samples	Role	Samples
WOMAN:	 ...	<i>woman doctor:</i>	 ...
MAN:	 ...	<i>man doctor:</i>	 ...
ADULT:	 ...	<i>doctor:</i>	<i>tbd</i>

Some may refer to "gender neutral" image as a more abstract form like *smiley faces*; that is not the sense meant here. (And for clarity, any such proposals should be phrased as requesting more "smiley faces", so people know what is being proposed in terms of images.)

There are many instances where one does not want to be overly specific as to gender. Often people want to write the equivalent of <see><a doctor><!>, and emoji shouldn't force them to be overly specific as to which gender the doctor is!

(Aside: Living in Switzerland, I see the contortions that the German language forces on people.

Instead of saying:

“The producers met with the directors, actors, and writers.”,

one has to say the equivalent of:

“The male producers and the female producers met with the male directors and the female directors, and the male actors and the female actors, and the male writers and the female writers.”)

If we want to push for future gender-neutral forms, I’ve tried to outline a way forward below. We need to look at the data to help us understand the priorities among the directions we take in order to make a recommendation to the UTC. For the data behind the proposals, see [Details](#) and [Current Categories](#).

Possible Proposals

Gender-Neutral Images

1. Add for Unicode 11.0:
 - a. The 2 new gender-neutral neutral Unicode characters ROYAL and PERSON DANCING (corresponding to prince, princess; man dancing, woman dancing). (ROYAL could be PERSON WITH CROWN.)
2. Add to Emoji 6.0:
 - a. The 96 (= 16 * 6) **Object-Format** zwj sequences with the new ADULT emoji (U10.0), corresponding to the WOMAN Object-Format sequences:
 - b. The 48 (= 8 * 6) **Sign-Format** zwj sequences with U+1F470, U+1F935, U+1F472, and U+1F574
3. Rename in CLDR v32:
 - a. The characters U+1F470, U+1F935, U+1F472, and U+1F574 as “person with veil”, “person in tuxedo”, “person with Chinese cap”, and “person in business suit levitating” respectively.

Note: if an implementation support all the new images, that would be a total of 414:

- 12 (= 2 x 6) for #1
- 96 for #2
- 48 for #3
- 258 (= 43 * 6) for the previous Sign Format bases (listed at the end of this doc).

Smiley Faces

We could instead have 60ish **non-human-form** images (eg new smiley faces) in particular roles. The main options are appear to be the following (for making a non-human-form RUNNER). That is, use one of the smiley’s as a base and add the “determiner”, or use the “determiner” as the base and add a character like MERCURY to indicate a neutral gender.

- SMILEY + ZWJ + **RUNNER**
- **RUNNER** + ZWJ + MERCURY

The advantage of this is that it would be far fewer images for implementations to support (mostly because

there wouldn't be any need for skin-tone modifiers). However, the question is whether this format for the images would be as desired by emoji users. This was the mechanism proposed in [L2/16-317](#).

Details

There are currently 3 kinds of gendered emoji. For a list of the first two categories, see the end of this doc.

1. Object-Format

- a. MAN/WOMAN + zwj + object
- b. Example:
 - i. WOMAN + ZWJ + AIRPLANE → *woman pilot*
- c. Solution: recommend combinations with the new ADULT emoji (U10.0) for Emoji 6.0, corresponding to the 16 Object-Format sequences (plus the skin-tone modifier sequences thereof):
 - i. ADULT + ZWJ + AIRPLANE → *pilot*

2. Sign-Format

- a. person_base + zwj + MALE/FEMALE SIGN
- b. Example:
 - i. RUNNER + ZWJ + FEMALE SIGN → *woman running*
- c. Solution: use the form without the MALE/FEMALE SIGN, but make the image neutral:
 - i. RUNNER → *person running*
- d. We already say that the “sign-less” forms should be neutral, and vendors can do this on their own, any time. So no action is needed by Unicode other than perhaps better documentation in Unicode, perhaps a UTS 51 annex containing the table below and some text.

3. Intrinsic Gender

- a. These are trickier. The remaining items fall into the following categories, and I have suggestions below each.
- b. **Paired**
 - i. U+1F385 father christmas
 - ii. U+1F936 mother christmas
 - iii. U+1F478 princess
 - iv. U+1F934 prince
 - v. U+1F483 woman dancing
 - vi. U+1F57A man dancing
 - vii. *Propose new neutral Unicode characters ROYALTY and PERSON DANCING for Unicode 11.0.*
 - viii. *Don't bother with “parent christmas” yet, unless a major vendor pushes for them, or someone can demonstrate that they would be more than edge cases in terms of usage.*
- c. **Semi-paired**
 - i. U+1F470 bride with veil
 - ii. U+1F935 man in tuxedo
 - iii. *Propose renaming in CLDR the characters U+1F470 and U+1F935 as “person with veil” and “person in tuxedo”, and adding 4 **Sign-format** zwj sequences to Emoji*

6.0.

d. **Specific**

- i. U+1F930 pregnant woman
- ii. U+1F931 breast feeding
- iii. U+1F9D5 person with headscarf // *while the name is person, the intent is female*
- iv. *Don't bother with these yet, unless a major vendor pushes for them, or someone can demonstrate that they would be more than edge cases in terms of usage.*

e. **Oddballs**

- i. U+1F472 man with Chinese cap
- ii. U+1F574 man in business suit levitating
- iii. *FYI: These were just encoded for compatibility with original Japanese sets and Dings.*
- iv. *Propose renaming in CLDR the characters U+1F472 and U+1F574 as “person with Chinese cap” and “person in business suit levitating”, and adding 4 **Sign-format** zwj sequences to Emoji 6.0.*

Current Categories

Note that the skin-tone modifiers are being omitted. The full number of images including those is $59 * 6 = 354$.

No	Type	Subtype	Codes	Name
1	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 2695 FEOF	health worker
2	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 2696 FEOF	judge
3	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 2708 FEOF	pilot
4	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F33E	farmer
5	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F373	cook
6	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F393	student
7	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F3A4	singer
8	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F3A8	artist
9	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F3EB	teacher
10	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F3ED	factory worker
11	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F4BB	technologist
12	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F4BC	office worker
13	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F527	mechanic
14	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F52C	scientist
15	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F680	astronaut
16	Object-format	role	1F9D1 200D 1F692	firefighter
17	Sign-format base	role	1F46E	police officer
18	Sign-format base	role	1F471	blond-haired person

19	Sign-format base	role	1F473	person wearing turban
20	Sign-format base	role	1F477	construction worker
21	Sign-format base	role	1F482	guard
22	Sign-format base	role	1F575	detective
23	Sign-format base	role	1F9D9	mage
24	Sign-format base	role	1F9DA	fairy
25	Sign-format base	role	1F9DB	vampire
26	Sign-format base	role	1F9DC	merperson
27	Sign-format base	role	1F9DD	elf
28	Sign-format base	role	1F9DE	genie
29	Sign-format base	role	1F9DF	zombie
30	Sign-format base	activity	26F9	person bouncing ball
31	Sign-format base	activity	1F3C3	person running
32	Sign-format base	activity	1F3C4	person surfing
33	Sign-format base	activity	1F3CA	person swimming
34	Sign-format base	activity	1F3CB	person lifting weights
35	Sign-format base	activity	1F3CC	person golfing
36	Sign-format base	activity	1F46F	people with bunny ears partying
37	Sign-format base	activity	1F486	person getting massage
38	Sign-format base	activity	1F487	person getting haircut
39	Sign-format base	activity	1F6A3	person rowing boat
40	Sign-format base	activity	1F6B4	person biking
41	Sign-format base	activity	1F6B5	person mountain biking
42	Sign-format base	activity	1F6B6	person walking
43	Sign-format base	activity	1F938	person cartwheeling
44	Sign-format base	activity	1F939	person juggling
45	Sign-format base	activity	1F93C	people wrestling
46	Sign-format base	activity	1F93D	person playing water polo
47	Sign-format base	activity	1F93E	person playing handball
48	Sign-format base	activity	1F9D6	person in steamy room
49	Sign-format base	activity	1F9D7	person climbing
50	Sign-format base	activity	1F9D8	person in lotus position
51	Sign-format base	gestures	1F481	person tipping hand
52	Sign-format base	gestures	1F645	person gesturing NO
53	Sign-format base	gestures	1F646	person gesturing OK

54	Sign-format base	gestures	1F647	person bowing
55	Sign-format base	gestures	1F64B	person raising hand
56	Sign-format base	gestures	1F64D	person frowning
57	Sign-format base	gestures	1F64E	person pouting
58	Sign-format base	gestures	1F926	person facepalming
59	Sign-format base	gestures	1F937	person shrugging