

Re: Gender Emoji Strategy

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To: Unicode Technical Committee

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The Unicode Emoji Subcommittee (ESC) has a goal of improving support for gender-neutral emoji representation. There are many reasons for doing this: among them are that the current emoji often require a choice that need not be made or that can't be made due to lack of information. For example, when someone announces "Is there a doctor on the plane?", they are not *only* asking for man doctors or *only* asking for woman doctors.

Proposals for CHILD, ADULT, and OLDER ADULT have resulted in three new characters and we are now looking to address additional cases that have the highest anticipated usage.

The following shows the tiering in terms of anticipated usage, which we will use to guide future decisions regarding gender-neutral representation.

1. The top usage tier has already been added as of Unicode v10.0. These are emoji for basic people:
 - a. ☐ U+1F9D2 CHILD
 - b. ☐ U+1F9D1 ADULT
 - c. ☐ U+1F9D3 OLDER ADULT
 - d. These correspond to the gendered forms:
 - e.  U+1F466 BOY
 - f.  U+1F467 GIRL
 - g.  U+1F468 MAN
 - h.  U+1F469 WOMAN
 - i.  U+1F474 OLDER MAN
 - j.  U+1F475 OLDER WOMAN
2. Tier 2 falls into two groups:
 - a. Emoji such as RUNNER, where the single characters are gender-neutral by definition (i.e. not in the [UTS#51 Section 2.1](#) list), and take ZWJ+SIGN for man/woman versions. Most vendors don't yet display distinct images, however.
 - b. Roles such as firefighter. These would need additional ZWJ sequences with ADULT corresponding to those with MAN or WOMAN. At the October UTC meeting we should assess the degree of major vendor support for adding ZWJ sequences as RGI.
3. Tier 3 includes a set of specific cases from [UTS #51 Section 2.1](#). We should consider these in the UTC October meeting.
 - a. The ESC recommends making the following characters be gender-neutral, in the same way as was done with RUNNER. We could then consider whether there is support for RGI ZWJ sequences.
 - i.  U+1F472 MAN WITH GUA PI MAO
 - ii.  U+1F935 MAN IN TUXEDO
 - iii.  U+1F470 BRIDE WITH VEIL
 - iv.  U+1F574 MAN IN BUSINESS SUIT LEVITATING
 - v. The last one is trickier, since the limited size of the face at emoji sizes make

it very difficult to have 3 distinct forms. Note: Facebook supports two versions (man and woman).

- b. For the following, one possibility for a gender-neutral form might be a ZWJ sequence with ADULT ZWJ CROWN
 - i.  U+1F478 PRINCESS
 - ii.  U+1F934 PRINCE
- c. For the following, we don't really have a good solution for a gender-neutral form. A proposal for DISCO BALL has been considered. This could be used to create a gender-neutral dancer with ADULT ZWJ DISCO BALL. But we haven't come to a solid consensus yet.
 - i.  U+1F483 DANCER (currently documented as a woman)
 - ii.  U+1F57A MAN DANCING
- d. The following gender-neutral forms either have low anticipated usage, or we don't have sufficient usage information to make a decision, and so should be saved for a future discussion.
 - i.  U+1F930 PREGNANT WOMAN
 - ii.  U+1F931 BREAST-FEEDING
 - iii.  U+1F9D5 PERSON WITH HEADSCARF
 - iv.  U+1F385 FATHER CHRISTMAS
 - v.  U+1F936 MOTHER CHRISTMAS
 - vi. The last two are also a bit different. These refer to specific people, and there is the possibility of using ELF as the gender-neutral form.
- 4. Tier 4 includes all the people groupings such as families and couples. We're holding off on these primarily because of the combinatorics. Vendors are able to use CHILD, ADULT or OLDER ADULT in most existing family and couple sequences already. Some additional emoji that share a single code-point (wrestlers, men and women holding hands) may require sequences to expand the range. These cases may be looked at again in future.

See some related previous documents:

1. [L2/17-232](#) Proposal for Fully Gender-Inclusive Emoji
2. [L2/17-195](#) Add Emoji Gender Properties
3. [L2/17-071](#) Gender-Neutral Human-form Emoji
4. [L2/16-160](#) Expanding Emoji Professions: Reducing Gender Inequality
5. [L2/15-048](#) Adding gender counterparts to emoji list?