Gendered Emoji Update

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1. Background

I want to avoid excessive repetition. Please refer back to L2/17-232 (*"Proposal for Fully Gender-Inclusive Emoji"*) and L2/17-439 (*"Analysis of Emoji Proposals for Gender-Specific Additions"*) for why all of these characters and sequences must be added in order to remove discriminatory implications from the standard and achieve some sort of cohesive internal logic.

All of the emoji proposed here are equally important. If, for whatever reason, it is not feasible to add them all in one go, the UTC should decide which ones to prioritize by random lot or by simply ascending the list in order.

I have yet to receive the ESC's response to my last proposal (cf. 154-A46), so I see myself forced to write this document without being able to reply to any questions or concerns the ESC may have had.

2. Repertoire

There have been a number of changes to Unicode Emoji – in particular the preliminary release of Emoji 11.0 – since the last proposal. Accordingly, the gender table now looks like this:

Concept	Male	Neutral	Female
Child	✓	✓	✓
Adult	✓	✓	✓
Older adult	✓	✓	✓
Health worker	✓	✗	✓
Student	✓	✗	✓
Teacher	✓	✗	✓
Judge	✓	✗	✓
Farmer	✓	✗	✓
Cook	✓	✗	✓
Mechanic	✓	✗	✓
Factory worker	✓	✗	✓
Office worker	✓	✗	✓
Scientist	✓	✗	✓
Technologist	✓	✗	✓
Singer	✓	✗	✓
Artist	✓	✗	✓

Pilot	✓	✗	✓
Astronaut	✓	✗	✓
Firefighter	✓	✗	✓
Police officer	✓	✓	✓
Sleuth	✓	✓	✓
Guard	✓	✓	✓
Construction worker	✓	✓	✓
Royalty	✓	✗	✓
Turban	✓	✓	✓
Guā pí mào	✓	✗	✗
Headscarf	✗	✗	✓
Beard	✗	✓	✗
Blond hair	✓	✓	✓
Tuxedo	✓	✗	✗
Veil	✗	✗	✓
Pregnancy	✗	✗	✓
Breast feeding	✗	✓	✗
Christmas	✓	✗	✓
Mage	✓	✓	✓
Fairy	✓	✓	✓
Vampire	✓	✓	✓
Merperson	✓	✓	✓
Elf	✓	✓	✓
Genie	✓	✓	✓
Zombie	✓	✓	✓
Frowning	✓	✓	✓
Pouting	✓	✓	✓
No good gesture	✓	✓	✓
OK gesture	✓	✓	✓
Information desk	✓	✓	✓
Raising hand	✓	✓	✓
Bowing	✓	✓	✓
Face palm	✓	✓	✓
Shrug	✓	✓	✓

Face massage	✓	✓	✓
Haircut	✓	✓	✓
Walking	✓	✓	✓
Running	✓	✓	✓
Dancing	✓	✗	✓
Bunny ears	✓	✓	✓
Steamy room	✓	✓	✓
Climbing	✓	✓	✓
Lotus position	✓	✓	✓
Levitating in business suit	✓	✗	✗
Golf	✓	✓	✓
Surfing	✓	✓	✓
Rowboat	✓	✓	✓
Swimming	✓	✓	✓
Ball	✓	✓	✓
Weight lifting	✓	✓	✓
Bicycle	✓	✓	✓
Mountain bicycle	✓	✓	✓
Cartwheel	✓	✓	✓
Wrestling	✓	✓	✓
Water polo	✓	✓	✓
Handball	✓	✓	✓
Juggling	✓	✓	✓
Superhero	✓	✓	✓
Supervillain	✓	✓	✓
Red hair	✓	✗	✓
Curly hair	✓	✗	✓
Bald	✓	✗	✓
White hair	✓	✗	✓

48 concepts are now available in all three genders, **23** concepts only allow two genders, and **8** concepts have to make do with just one single, arbitrarily chosen gender. This leaves **39** emoji still waiting to be encoded, of which 38 are being proposed here. The thirty-ninth is the neutral counterpart to FATHER CHRISTMAS and MOTHER CHRISTMAS, which I want to postpone until we find a proper solution for that.

You will find most of the proposed emoji on page 9 of [L2/17-439](#), and a pre-formatted data file containing all characters and sequences (with tentative codepoints for Person Dancing and Heir to the Throne) has been attached to this message. The four newcomers are as follows:

Proposed Codepoint(s)	Name
1F9D1 200D 1F9B0	Person, red haired
1F9D1 200D 1F9B1	Person, curly haired
1F9D1 200D 1F9B2	Person, bald
1F9D1 200D 1F9B3	Person, white haired

I want to reiterate the need for Person Dancing and Heir to the Throne to be atomic characters rather than sequences, which is an indispensable requirement for internal consistency.

There have been vague plans within the UTC to redefine Dancer as neutral and recommend a new ZWJ sequence for an explicitly female dancer. This is not possible, however, since the male dancer already is encoded as a character: Man Dancing. Either all genders use the same amount of codepoints, or the male and female variants are modifications of a neutral base. That is how it works for every single gendered emoji in Unicode. Introducing a new system wherein male and neutral or female and neutral are atomic characters while the missing binary gender is demoted to a ZWJ sequence for certain concepts would be a drastic break with prior conventions and also a slap in the face for the gender that happened to receive the short end of the stick. ZWJ sequences are not equal to characters. They are fragile, cumbersome to work with, and not subject to many provisions and policies of the core standard.

If Dancer were to return to its gender-neutral roots – which I would be very much in favour of, make no mistake – then the female dancing emoji would have to be a singular character called Woman Dancing. If Dancer were to remain in its present, de facto female state, then the neutral dancing emoji would have to be a singular character called Person Dancing. There simply is no other viable option.

Obviously the same is true for royalty. Princess and Prince already exist as characters, so their neutral counterpart must be a single character as well, just like Adult is the neutral counterpart to Man and Woman. The genderless option must never require more codepoints than the two binary genders, and the two binary genders must always require the exact same number of codepoints as each other. Breaking these rules would be akin to declaring Fitzpatrick type 1 as the default state of all human-form emoji while encoding the lack of a skin tone as a dependent modifier, or demanding a larger number of characters to represent darker skin variants compared to lighter skin.

3. Vendor Support

A few of the emoji proposed here have already been implemented by various vendors. If the UTC considers vendor support to be a crucial prerequisite for acknowledging additional sequences, then these should take priority and be implemented immediately:

- Male and female variants of Man in Tuxedo are supported by Twemoji.

- Male and female variants of Man in Business Suit Levitating are supported by Twemoji and Facebook.

- Male and female variants of Person with Headscarf are supported by Emojidex.

Additionally, Emojidex uses gender-neutral designs that are distinct from male and female for all of their neutral emoji, and Emojipedia also created explicitly neutral sample images for Superhero and Supervillain, meaning there are real-world examples of emoji implementations where the third gender isn't just a duplicate of one of the other two, contrary to what is commonly assumed by the Unicode Consortium.

4. Images

See L2/17-232 for old images and licensing information. Samples for all proposed emoji have been attached to this message. Here are the four new glyphs: