





Re: ESC comments on 2020 Q4 feedback
From: Jennifer Daniel on behalf of Unicode Emoji Subcommittee (ESC)
To: Unicode Technical Committee (UTC)
Date: 2021-02-22

This document provides ESC comments (*in italics*) with regard to [L2/21-011](#) feedback on Emoji 14.0.

- The male and neutral forms are proposed as new additions with the existing de-facto female form remaining unchanged, but so far the practice has always been to redefine the old emoji character as neutral and define new male and female variants thereof, even in cases where the base character’s name strongly implies a certain gender (cf. U+1F473  MAN WITH TURBAN, U+1F46F  WOMAN WITH BUNNY EARS, and several other examples).

Regarding PREGNANT WOMAN. The original plan was to indeed to remove PREGNANT WOMAN from the explicitly gendered list and add <U+1F930, U+200D, U+2642, U+FE0F>  “Pregnant Man” and <U+1F930, U+200D, U+2640, U+FE0F>  “Pregnant Woman” However, we were unable to gain unanimous consensus. The plan of record (POR) is an intentional decision to bypass this stalemate.

To ensure the integrity of existing gendered emoji and to preserve a long runway for future additions, “person”based emoji should never be encoded with a sex symbol. As such, the “person” and “man” ‘variants’ are in the process of being added as atomic characters.

- The proposed names of the new characters, “man with swollen belly” and “person with swollen belly”, are completely semantically detached from the meaning of U+1F930, which is never the case for emoji that form a gender triplet. Being pregnant and having a swollen belly are not synonymous; one cannot reasonably be used as a substitute for the other. While it is true that U+1F930 is sometimes humorously used to convey a general concept of bloat, this has no bearing on its actual semantics as a Unicode character. U+1F930 was encoded for a very particular purpose – to represent pregnancy and parenthood – and retroactively changing its official meaning to encompass any stomach bloat would be both disrespectful to expecting parents and damaging to existing data.

We agree with this assessment. And recommend changing NamesList for 14.0 Alpha accordingly:

- *Current Names*
 - 1FAC3 MAN WITH SWOLLEN BELLY
 - 1FAC4 PERSON WITH SWOLLEN BELLY
- *Recommendation, Modified*
 - 1FAC3 PREGNANT MAN
 - 1FAC4 PREGNANT PERSON