L2/26-174

To: UTC and relevant working groups

Title: Proposal to encode ARABIC LIGATURE LAM WITH SMALL V WITH ALEF

From: Nick Doiron (as an individual contributor)

Date: 13 June 2026

Summary

This is a proposal to encode Arabic script ligatures used in the Kurdish language. This proposal requires the addition of two characters – the isolated form (ﻵ) and the final form (ﻶ).

Background

Kurdish is spoken by millions of people primarily in modern-day Türkiye, Iran, Syria, Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan. The character U+06B5, LAM WITH SMALL V (ڵ) has been included since Unicode 1.1 for Kurdish and a few other languages.

Multiple Arabic script fonts now support LAM WITH SMALL V and ALEF combining to make a ligature (ﻵ) and in context will render it in its final form (ﻶ).

The problem

Some modern applications render text in WebGL. Due to technical limitations, text in languages with Arabic script is typically sent to WebGL renderers grapheme by grapheme by a text-shaping algorithm. Lam-alef ligatures are supported by rendering their presentation forms U+FEFB and U+FEFC (ﻻ/ﻼ).

The Arabic Presentation Forms-B block also contains lam-alef ligatures with modifications such as MADDA ABOVE, HAMZA ABOVE, and HAMZA BELOW (ﻷ,ﻹ,ﻳ). This makes it possible for WebGL to render text across multiple languages with Arabic script. The unsupported Kurdish ligature is currently included in about 1,000 place names on OpenStreetMap, which increasingly depends on WebGL to render maps of the world.

Thus, I encourage Unicode members to consider the addition of both isolated and final forms of ARABIC LIGATURE LAM WITH SMALL V WITH ALEF in an Arabic Presentation Form block.

An alternative would be to include the SMALL V as a combining character similar to U+036E. Though less present in online corpora, an argument could be made to support other lam-alef ligatures, using these letters:

- U+06B6 (LAM WITH DOT ABOVE)
- U+06B7 (LAM WITH THREE DOTS ABOVE)
- U+06B8 (LAM WITH THREE DOTS BELOW)

Decomposition

This character has a decomposition of U+06B5 (ARABIC LAM WITH SMALL V) and U+0627 (ARABIC LETTER ALEF).

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646

A. Administrative

1. Title: *Arabic Ligature Lam with Small V with Alef (isolated and final forms)*
2. Requester's name: *Nick Doiron*
3. Requester type: *Individual contribution*
4. Submission date: *2026-06-13*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
   This is a complete proposal:
   (or) More information will be provided later: *Yes*

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): *No*
      Proposed name of script:
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *Yes*
      Name of the existing block:
2. Number of characters in proposal: *2*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
   A-Contemporary *X* B.1-Specialized (small collection) B.2-Specialized (large collection)
   C-Major extinct D-Attested extinct E-Minor extinct
   F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? *Yes*
   a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document? *Yes*
   b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? */*
5. Fonts related:
   a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?
   Nick Doiron
   b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
   Nick Doiron
6. References:
   a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? */*
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? *No*
7. Special encoding issues:
   Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?
   /

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	*No*
If YES, explain:	
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	*No*
If YES, with whom?	
If YES, available relevant documents:	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	*Yes*
Reference:	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	*Rare*
Reference:	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	*Yes*
If YES, where? Reference:	
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	*No*
If YES, is a rationale provided?	
If YES, reference:	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	*Yes*
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	*Yes*
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	*Yes*
If YES, reference:	*WebGL*
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character?	*No*
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	*No*
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference:	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
If YES, reference:	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	*No*
If YES, describe in detail:	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	*No*
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference:	

UnicodeData.txt

```
2    0001;<control>;Cc;0;BN;;;;;N;START OF HEADING;;;;
1    1;Arabic Ligature Lam with Small V with Alef Isolated Form;Lo;
     0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
3    0002;<control>;Cc;0;BN;;;;;N;START OF TEXT;;;;
2    2;Arabic Ligature Lam with Small V with Alef Final Form;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
+2 -2
```