

Using Gender Inclusive Designs

For existing code points which do
not specify gender

TL;DR

“Other than the above list, human-form emoji should normally be depicted in a gender-neutral way unless gender appearance is explicitly specified”

— [TR-51](#), *Emoji Documentation*

Google will be giving the “ungendered” base human emojis a “gender inclusive” appearance in a future release, as per Unicode recommendation. In the future, Google would also like to see additional sequences added as RGI to improve consistency across the human emoji set.

Background

Gender has many exceptions and implementation details, and many aspects of this have been discussed in past documents.

This document is to note Google's intent to use gender inclusive designs where code points exist, and to signal Google's interest in additional gender sequences.

Specific sequences may be proposed in future, but are not explored in detail in this document. If or when a proposal for additional sequences is created, the aforementioned documents will be taken into account.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2016/1/6317-gender-inclusive-emoji.pdf>

<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2017/1/7071-gender-neutral-humanform.pdf>

<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2017/1/7232-gender-gap.pdf>

















































<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2018/1/8022-emoji-gender.pdf>

<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2018/1/8225-cross-platform-gender.pdf>

<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2019/1/9022-gender-update.pdf>

THE STATUS QUO

A few vendors support “gender inclusive” codepoints with unique designs

	Couple	Kiss	Family	Child	Person	Older Person	Superhero	Villain
Apple								
Google								
Twitter								
FB								
Samsung								
Microsoft								

THE STATUS QUO

These eleven emojis only support “person” codepoints, no female or male presentations for codepoints supported ...



Snowboarder*
[U+1F3C2](#)



Baby angel*
[U+1F47C](#)



Baby*
[U+1F476](#)



Skier*
[U+26F7](#)



Person taking bath*
[U+1F6C0](#)



Person in bed*
[U+1F6CC](#)



Person fencing*
[U+1F93A](#)



Horse Racing*
[U+1F3C7](#)



Kiss
[U+1F48F](#)



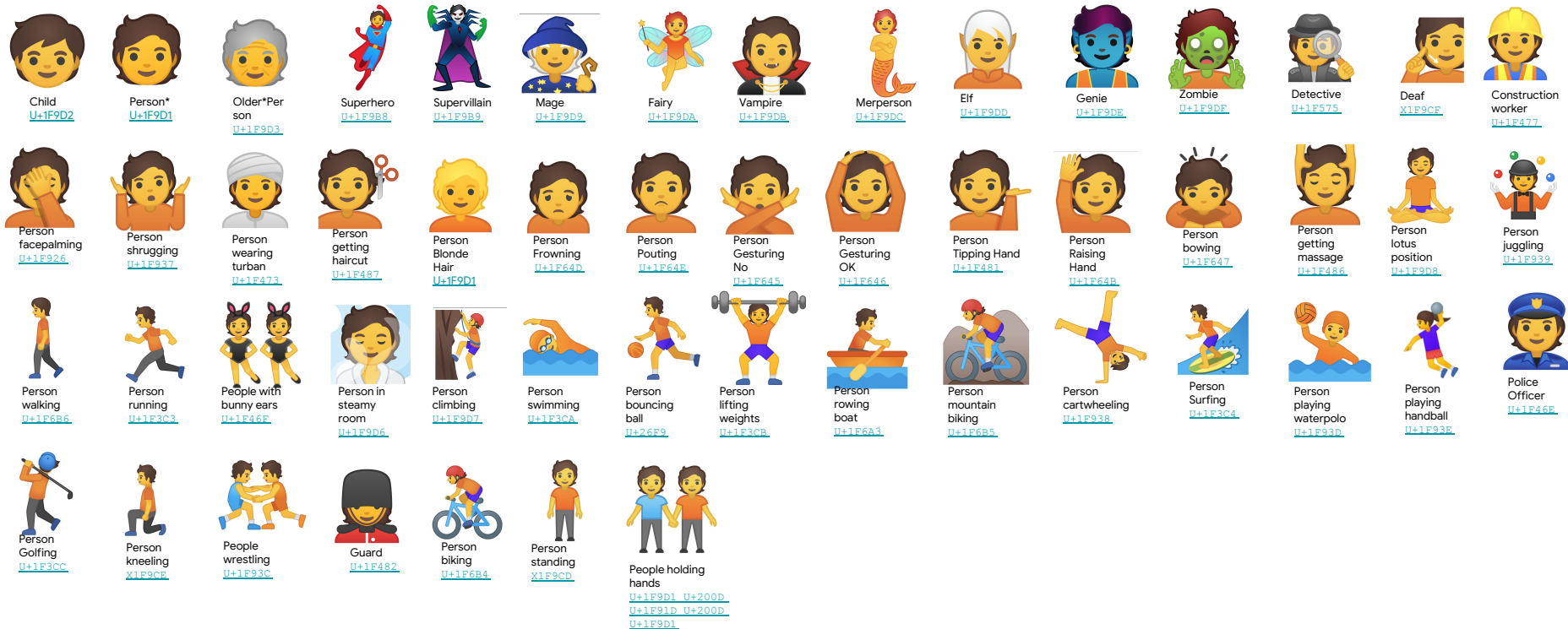
Couple with heart
[U+1F491](#)



Breastfeeding
[U+1F931](#)

THE STATUS QUO

... but as of Unicode 12.0, 64 emojis are defined as gender inclusive and most vendors **do not** have unique designs to support 53 of these codepoints.



This creates all kinds of x-platform problems —

Google



Apple



Twitter



WhatsApp



Samsung



Microsoft



Merperson

Person in sauna













































Or reinforces stereotypes











Construction worker



STATUS QUO

It happens ... a number of times

	<u>Appl</u>	<u>Goog</u>	<u>FB</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Twtr</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Sams</u>
superhero							
supervillain							
person in steamy room							
mage							
vampire							
merperson							

	<u>Appl</u>	<u>Goog</u>	<u>FB</u>	<u>Wind</u>	<u>Twtr</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Sams</u>
elf							
genie							
zombie							
person cartwheeling							
person playing handball							
person climbing							

THE STATUS QUO

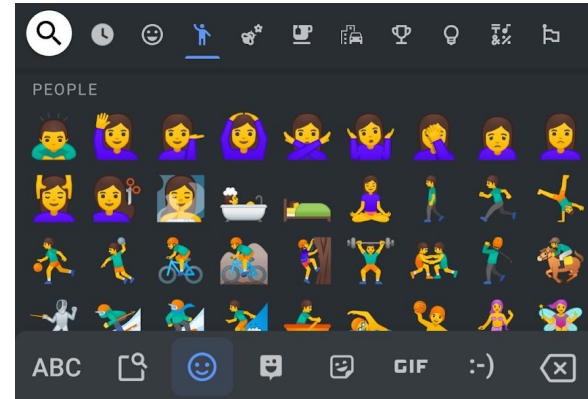
Why we should care

If vendors supported gender inclusive designs the experience using emojis could benefit



iOS

Apple's default keyboard displays two genders, using twice the amount of real estate



gboard

Google's default keyboard displays one gender but since there are no gender inclusive designs you see an arbitrary mix of "male" and "female"

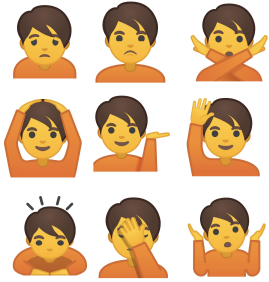
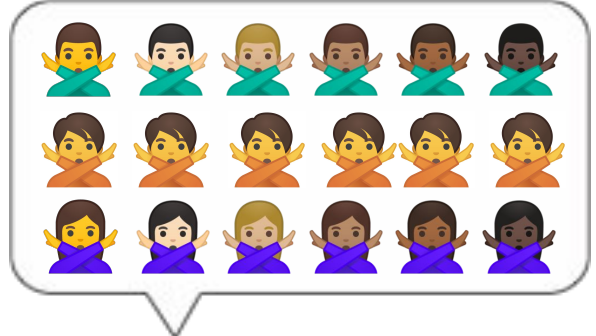
THE STATUS QUO

Why we should care

Keyboards are twice as large as they have to be, displaying two genders instead of one single inclusive character with affordance to opt into gender.



Many emoji pickers reveal two gender glyphs =



Recommended consolidation

This is an effort to:

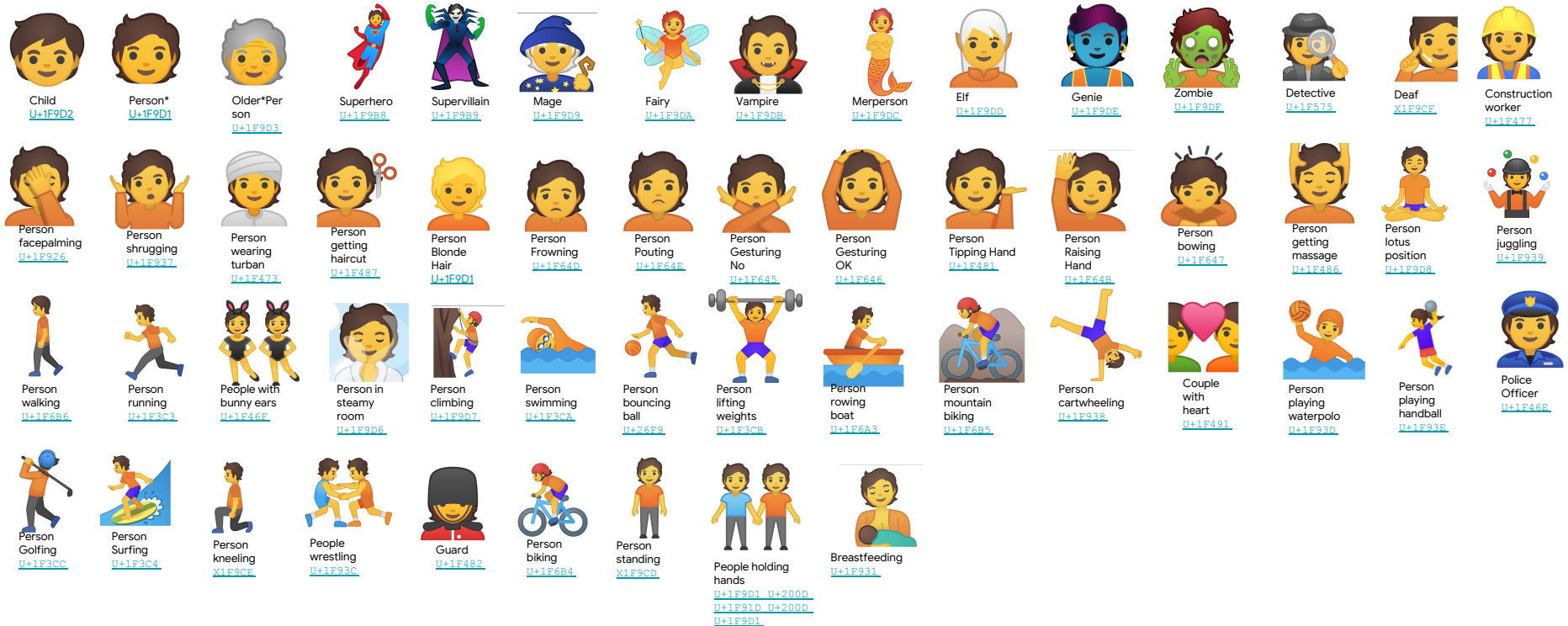
1. Be faithful to Unicode's standards
2. Simultaneously push inclusivity as a priority into Unicode standards.
3. Create an emoji experience that is more intuitive to navigate

THE STATUS QUO

What's a reasonable way
to move forward?

MOVING FORWARD

Plan: Create unique designs for existing code points



concept		male	inclusive	female
child	U+1F476	✓	✓	✓
adult/person	U+1F9D1	✓	✓	✓
older adult	U+1F9D3	✓	✓	✓
deaf	U+1F9CF	✓	✓	✓
police officer	U+1F46E	✓	✓	✓
sleuth	U+1F575	✓	✓	✓
guard	U+1F482	✓	✓	✓
construction worker	U+1F477	✓	✓	✓
breast feeding	U+1F931	x	✓	x
mage	U+1F9D9	✓	✓	✓
fairy	U+1F9DA	✓	✓	✓
vampire	U+1F9DB	✓	✓	✓
merperson	U+1F9DC	✓	✓	✓
elf	U+1F9DD	✓	✓	✓
genie	U+1F9DE	✓	✓	✓
zombie	U+1F9DF	✓	✓	✓
frowning	U+1F64D	✓	✓	✓
pouting	U+1F64E	✓	✓	✓
no good gesture	U+1F645	✓	✓	✓
ok gesture	U+1F646	✓	✓	✓
information desk	U+1F481	✓	✓	✓
raising hand	U+1F64B	✓	✓	✓
bowing	U+1F647	✓	✓	✓
face palm	U+1F926	✓	✓	✓
shrug	U+1F937	✓	✓	✓
face massage	U+1F486	✓	✓	✓
haircut	U+1F487	✓	✓	✓
walking	U+1F6B6	✓	✓	✓
running	U+1F3C3	✓	✓	✓
bunny ears	U+1F46F	✓	✓	✓
steamy room	U+1F9D6	✓	✓	✓

climbing	U+1F9D7	✓	✓	✓
lotus position	U+1F9D8	✓	✓	✓
golf	U+1F3CC	✓	✓	✓
surfing	U+1F3C4	✓	✓	✓
rowboat	U+1F6A3	✓	✓	✓
swimming	U+1F3CA	✓	✓	✓
weight lifting	U+1F3CB	✓	✓	✓
bicycle	U+1F6B4	✓	✓	✓
mountain bicycle	U+1F6B5	✓	✓	✓
cartwheel	U+1F938	✓	✓	✓
wrestling	U+1F93C	✓	✓	✓
water polo	U+1F93D	✓	✓	✓
handball	U+1F93E	✓	✓	✓
juggling	U+1F939	✓	✓	✓
superhero	U+1F9B8	✓	✓	✓
supervillain	U+1F9B9	✓	✓	✓
standing	U+1F9CD	✓	✓	✓
kneeling	U+1F9CE	✓	✓	✓
family	U+1F46A	✓	✓	✓
person bouncing ball	U+26F9	✓	✓	✓
people holding hands	F91 D U+200D U+1F9D1	✓	✓	✓
blond hair	U+1F9D1	✓	✓	✓
turban	U+1F473	✓	✓	✓
fencing	U+1F93A	x	✓	x
horse racer	U+1F3C7	x	✓	x
skier	U+26F7	x	✓	x
snowboarder	U+1F3C2	x	✓	x
person in bathtub	U+1F6C0	x	✓	x
person in bed	U+1F6CC	x	✓	x
kiss	U+1F48E	x	✓	x
couple with heart	U+1F491	x	✓	x
baby angel	U+1F47C	x	✓	x
baby	U+1F476	x	✓	x

NOT SUPPORTED				
red hair		✓	x	✓
christmas		✓	x	✓
health worker		✓	x	✓
student		✓	x	✓
curly hair		✓	x	✓
bald		✓	x	✓
white hair		✓	x	✓
teacher		✓	x	✓
judge		✓	x	✓
farmer		✓	x	✓
concept		✓	x	✓
mechanic		✓	x	✓
person in motorized wheelchair		✓	x	✓
person in manual wheelchair		✓	x	✓
person with probing cane		✓	x	✓
factory worker		✓	x	✓
office worker		✓	x	✓
scientist		✓	x	✓
technologist		✓	x	✓
singer		✓	x	✓
artist		✓	x	✓
pilot		✓	x	✓
astronaut		✓	x	✓
firefighter		✓	x	✓
royalty		✓	x	✓
gua pi mao		✓	x	✓
headscarf		✓	x	✓
beard		✓	x	✓
tuxedo		✓	x	x
veil		x	x	✓
pregnancy		x	x	✓
dancing		✓	x	✓
levitating in business suit		✓	x	x
bald		✓	x	✓

In Conclusion

Google will be moving forward with plans to give all emojis which don't specify gender a unique, gender-inclusive design in 2019. While future documents are likely to propose additional sequences to cover gaps in the Unicode Standard, no action is requested of the UTC at this time. This document is not proposing any new sequences. We hope this provides helpful guidance for other vendors that may also wish to also incorporate gender inclusive designs, particularly for the existing 58 emojis which do not specify gender.