

From: UTC Document Submission @unicode.org>

Subject: Re: UTC Document Submission: Transgender Flag and related symbols

Date: January 8, 2018 at 2:16:59 PM EST

This proposal was reviewed by the emoji subcommittee. Members would like to see better data.

There are multiple possibilities for this flag, so this issue could be discussed:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender\\_flags](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_flags)

Responses, written by Hannah Simpson (@HannSimp)

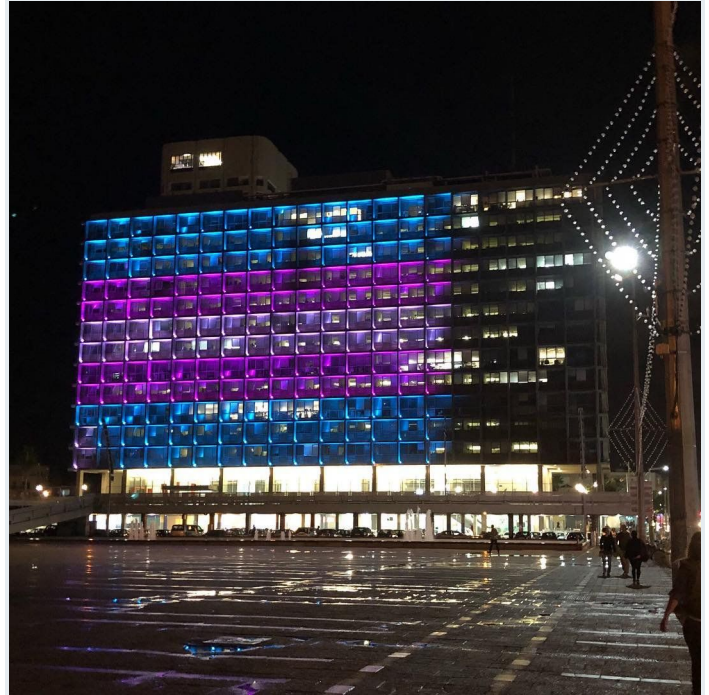
The five-stripe transgender flag has become the widely acknowledged standard. This has become the universal design that is displayed in relation to transgender identity (as well as broader gender identity diversity), which, while once a taboo, has risen to the level of household conversation dramatically, notably in the wake of the broader Gay and Lesbian rights movement's successes.

This design has been portrayed as a banner, and on buildings, ranging from San Francisco City Hall to the One World Trade Center spire in New York City, our nation's tallest, as well as international visibility.



San Francisco (California) City Hall, San Francisco  
California, June 23rd 2017

<https://twitter.com/CornellBarnard/status/878488823033769984>



<https://www.instagram.com/p/BbvA85Nj3if/>  
Tel Aviv City Hall, Tel Aviv Israel  
November 20th, 2017



Duke Energy Center Tower, Charlotte, North Carolina

March 31st, 2016.

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/04/wells-fargo-lights-charlotte-office-tower-with-transgender-flag-colors/>



One World Trade Center Spire, New York, NY

March 31st, 2017

(These colors were ALSO displayed on 6/23/2017 and 11/20/2017.)

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/governor-cuomo-lights-the-night-for-trans-visibility\\_us\\_58e2705de4b0d804fbbb752e](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/governor-cuomo-lights-the-night-for-trans-visibility_us_58e2705de4b0d804fbbb752e)



Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto Canada, November 20th, 2015

<http://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-transgender-day-of-remembrance-or-tgor-marked-in-the-city-hall-toronto-90325502.html>

As far as data goes, it would be helpful to include comparisons to the sum of the values terms such as for 'gay', 'lesbian', 'bisexual'. Comparisons of usage of flags for transgender vs other causes or identity groups would be helpful.

One analogy for the relevance of the transgender flag is to consider the 6-stripe RAINBOW flag as the "United States" flag of LGBTQ+ identities (plural). The transgender flag, could be equivalent to the flag of Puerto Rico. While a territory of the United States over which the US flag flies sovereign, Puerto Rico is also separate, independent, and distinct. Puerto Rico sends its own delegation to the Olympics since 1948, and as occurred in 2016 when a gold medal was awarded, the Puerto Rican national anthem plays, NOT the Star-Spangled Banner. Depending on the advocacy and context, the symbolism of either the US flag vs. the Puerto Rican flag can have distinct implications, particularly around Statehood discussion. **Puerto Rico already has its own flag emoji**, which is useful as a symbol of heritage, solidarity, and when referring to Puerto Rico directly, especially when the US flag would not be sufficiently effective.

While the RAINBOW broadly speaks to the entire LGBTQ+ community of identities (like each US State has its own flag), in the wake of the Marriage Equality movement, it has broadly become a symbol of SEXUAL (ROMANTIC) ORIENTATION. This is the flag symbolizing one's freedom and dignity in LOVING and MARRYING any other adult, particularly one of the same gender.

Conversely, the transgender flag is the broad flag of IDENTITY, the freedom and dignity to BE and EXPRESS YOURSELF as whomever you internally. Like the US and Puerto Rico, these concepts are intrinsically linked, yet easily distinct enough to merit separate Unicode expressions. Transgender individuals face many of the same challenges LGB individuals do, but also go through the emotional (and often, physical) process of gender transition, which can include therapy, and/or medical intervention. Many transgender people are straight, and seek partners of the opposite gender, while others do simultaneously identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc...

Regards,