

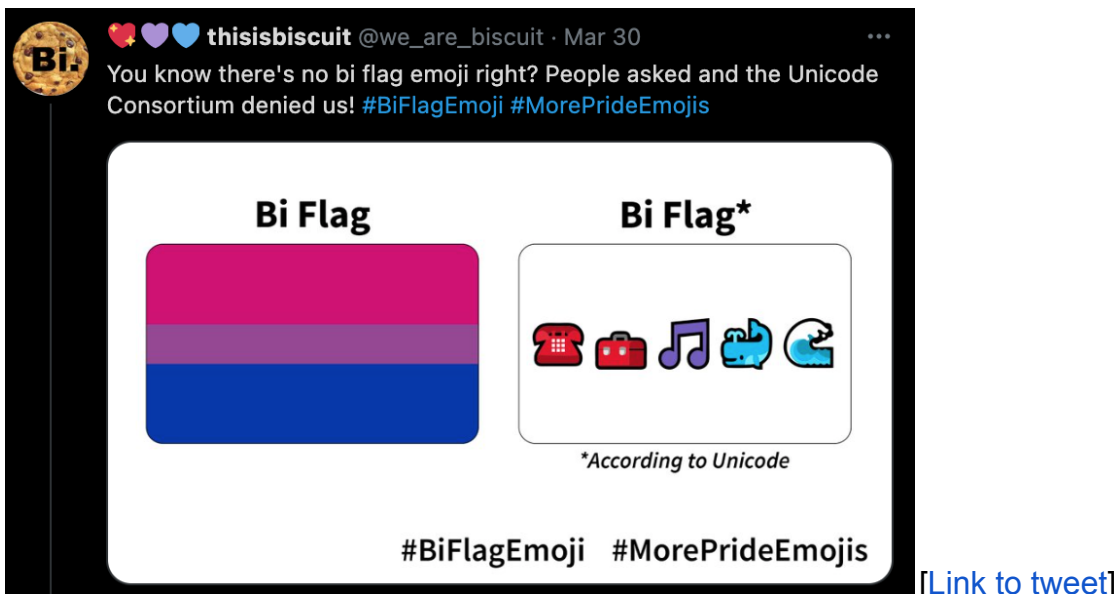
LGBTQIA+ community begins year-long campaign to bring more pride flags to the emoji keyboard

After Unicode rejected pride flag emoji proposals last year, members of the LGBTQIA+ community have joined forces for the sake of greater representation.

On Tuesday March 30th, at the end of #BiHealthMonth, the More Pride Emojis campaign officially launched, urging the inclusion of more pride flags on the emoji keyboard. The campaign calls out that there is still no bi pride flag emoji to date, despite the transgender flag becoming a ubiquitous icon in the set last year.



Several prominent LGBTQIA+ organizations showed support for the campaign at launch.



Jay Bryson, Head of the Bi-Pan Committee at Out in Tech has also voiced approval of the effort. “The Bisexual+ and Pansexual communities are often forgotten during conversations about LGBTQIA+”

representation. Approval of the Bi+ flag would be an important next step on the path to ensuring the inclusivity of those who feel underrepresented by the current emoji offerings. However, we can't stop there!"

Currently, the rainbow pride flag and transgender pride flag are the only two that have been approved and published by the Unicode Consortium, the body that leads the adoption of new emoji characters.

"We will continue to speak up on the importance of diverse representation of the LGBTQIA+ community," said Tanner Marino, a software engineer based in San Diego who tried to get approval for a bisexual pride flag in 2020. "Putting more pride emojis on every iPhone and Android in the world has tremendous potential to give gender, sexual, and romantic identities visibility."

Right now, the More Pride Emojis campaign is focused on championing the Asexual and Bisexual pride flags, as these were the proposals that the campaign members submitted last year. Their hope is to bring more people within the community into the campaign as the year progresses in order to submit a proposal with as many flags as possible.

Tom Schrantz, founder of Asexuality Archive, noted that he's "happy to join with this effort to help push for more pride emojis" after last year submitting a proposal for the ace flag that was also rejected.

"This isn't just about getting an ace flag emoji or a bi flag emoji, but about getting emojis that represent the wide diversity of our community, as well as helping to pave the way to make the process easier for others in the future."

Schrantz believes that with more people joining forces, real change is possible. "This year, standing together, I know we'll get further than any of us could by ourselves."