

**Title:** Proposal for New Emoji  
**Submitter:** Adib Behjat, Ayan Behjat  
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## Identification

**CLDR Shortname:** 9-Pointed Star  
**CLDR Keywords:** Baha'i | Bahai | star | religion

# Baha'i 9-Pointed Star Emoji Proposal Submission



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## Abstract

We are requesting the addition of a 9-pointed star emoji, which is commonly used by members of the Baha'i Faith, to add to the current lineup of religious symbols emoji, specifically under emoji selection criterion "D. Completeness." Currently, there are many religious symbols supported via the unicode standard - including Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhists, and Wiccan (5 pointed star). A 9-pointed star symbol that represents the Baha'i Faith would help provide a near complete lineup of religions of the world.

## Introduction

The Baha'i Faith is a religion that was founded by its prophet Baha'u'llah in 1863. There are over 7 million Baha'i adherents worldwide, and Baha'i institutions are recognized by many governments in the world - including the United States (<https://www.bahai.us/>) and China (<http://www.bahai.org/zh/>). In addition, Baha'is participate in political administrations, such as the United Nations (<https://www.bic.org/offices/united-nations>). Given the growth of followers of the Baha'i Faith year over year, and the prominence of the Baha'i Faith around the world, the availability of the Baha'i icon would be significant to practicing Baha'is around the world.

## Major Belief Systems According to Statistics

Statistics reported by notable institutions:

- Pew Research Center<sup>1</sup> states “The Baha’i faith began in Persia (now Iran) in the 19th century. Baha’is are widely dispersed across many countries, with significant populations in India, the United States, Kenya and elsewhere.”
- Adherents.com<sup>2</sup> (2005) statistics are: 7 million Baha’is around the world, ranking as the 13th largest global religion.

## Selection Factors – Inclusion

### A. Compatibility

There are no nine-pointed star, or Baha’i symbol, emoji available among the major platforms: Apple, Google, Yahoo, or MSN.

### B. Expected Usage

#### a. **Frequency**

The primary reason for adding the 9-pointed star emoji is completeness of the available religious symbol. However, we believe that usage frequency would be in the millions given the symbol represents the Baha’i community.

#### b. **Multiple Use**

In addition to other available stars, the 9-pointed star can compliment additional stars. In addition, the 9-pointed star can be combined with place of worship emoji ( ) to represent a Baha’i House of Worship.

#### c. **Emotional Content**

For Baha’is and the friends of the Baha’is around the world, the 9-pointed star is easily recognizable as the symbol of the Baha’i Faith. The derived emotional experience is positive as the symbol will be used in the context of their religious practice - whether it’s Baha’i holidays, Baha’i celebrations, or Baha’i events.

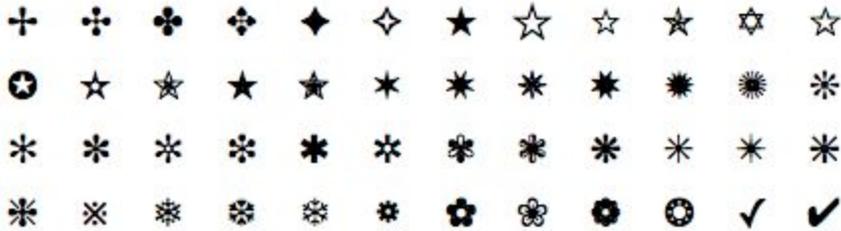
### C. Image Distinctiveness

Despite the presence of many different stars in the unicode character, the 9-pointed star is absent from the list.

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<sup>1</sup> Pew Research Forum: THE FUTURE OF WORLD RELIGIONS: POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTIONS, 2010-2050

<sup>2</sup> Adherents.com. "Major Religions of the World Ranked by Number of Adherents".



No stars from the selected options represent a 9-pointed star. Note that Star of David is available both in the list of religious symbols and stars

In addition, from the list of available religions, there are no other available images to represent the Baha'i Faith.

religion				
No	Code	Sample	CLDR Short Name	Other Keywords
2199	<a href="#">U+1F6D0</a>		place of worship	religion   worship
2200	<a href="#">U+269B</a>		atom symbol	atheist   atom
2201	<a href="#">U+1F549</a>		om	Hindu   religion
2202	<a href="#">U+2721</a>		star of David	David   Jew   Jewish   religion   star
2203	<a href="#">U+2638</a>		wheel of dharma	Buddhist   dharma   religion   wheel
2204	<a href="#">U+262F</a>		yin yang	religion   tao   taoist   yang   yin
2205	<a href="#">U+271D</a>		latin cross	Christian   cross   religion
2206	<a href="#">U+2626</a>		orthodox cross	Christian   cross   religion
2207	<a href="#">U+262A</a>		star and crescent	Muslim   islam   religion
2208	<a href="#">U+262E</a>		peace symbol	peace
2209	<a href="#">U+1F54E</a>		menorah	candelabrum   candlestick   religion
2210	<a href="#">U+1F52F</a>		dotted six-pointed star	fortune   star

## D. Completeness

As mentioned earlier, the presence of the nine-pointed star will close the gap of world religions in the available repertoire of religious symbols and religions.

## E. Frequently Requested

A cursory search of the Internet turns up users lamenting the lack of Baha'i Faith emoji, with some questioning why other religions have their practices represented.



*Usage of Baha'i 9-pointed star in different formats on Twitter*



*Reddit user questioning the lack of a Baha'i symbol*

## Selection Factors – Exclusion

### 1. Overly specific

Since the 9-pointed star will represent the Baha'i Faith, it will not be a very specific symbol. Instead, it's a general symbol that can be combined with other symbols (as noted under Multiple Use).

### 2. Open-ended

There are no other representation for a 9-pointed star. Similar to the Star of David (6-pointed star), the 9-pointed star will represent the Baha'i Faith.

### 3. Already Representable

One cannot easily represent the Baha'i 9-pointed star emoji using existing emoji. No emoji is graphically similar.

### 4. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The 9-pointed star doesn't represent any brand, logo, signage, specific person/people, or deities. The 9-pointed star represents practitioners of the Baha'i Faith, which is at least 7 million adherents worldwide.

### 5. Transient

The Baha'i Faith is a religion that started in 1863 with only a handful of adherents. Today, there are over 7 million adherents, guided by a central governing body and many local and national Baha'i organizations.

### 6. Faulty Comparison

Searching online for different variations of 9-pointed stars, or simply writing "9 pointed star" will reveal that the symbol specifically designates the Baha'i Faith.

## Sort Location

- **Category:** Religion (<http://unicode.org/emoji/charts/emoji-ordering.html#religion>)
- After C\* star and crescent (#2207)