

**TO:** UNICODE CONSORTIUM  
**FROM:** Zoe Mendelson, Emojination  
**DATE:** 29 June, 2017

# EMOJI PROPOSAL FOR CLASPING HANDS



This proposal is to request the inclusion of a new emoji as Unicode Emoji characters: CLASPING HANDS. Clasping hands are a symbol of human unity. It is a nearly-universal gesture signifying solidarity, teamwork, peace, friendship, togetherness, and union. It complements SHAKING HANDS and is important for completeness.

Hands clasping in this manner appear in many cultures around the world. In the Arab world, men commonly hold hands as a sign of friendship. This specific hand gesture is common as a handshake in South Africa. In the Caribbean and West Indies, it's called a "Lock and Fly." Among Americans, it's both part of the black culture of "giving dap" and the mostly white culture of "bro shakes" and "bro hugs." These two similar informal greetings that imply intimacy have spread into globalized culture.



## 2. Names

**CLDR short name:** clasp hands

**CLDR keywords:** friendship, solidarity, handshake

## 3. Images



#### 4. Selection Factors For Inclusion

**A Compatibility:** Monica Lewinsky's "Be Strong" Sticker pack featured the same clasping hands image, pictured below.



**B Expected Usage Level:**

**Frequency:** The clasped hands will certainly be used often as it is a gesture that is frequently used often in real life, the world over. The familiar handshake and the holding of hands are ubiquitous. They also package feelings that are not easily expressed quickly in written language, which would make them an extra-useful emoji. Beyond the somewhat more universal meaning of clasped hands, giving dap / the “bro-shake” are very old and still fairly universally recognizable institutions. It’s a definitely “a thing.” Similar affirmative hand gestures are also among the most-used emoji. As of June 28th, according to EmojiTracker.com, the OK Hand Sign is #13 in popularity, the Thumbs Up is #19, the Person Raising Both Hands in Celebration is #28, the Clapping Hands are number #46, and the Fisted Hand Sign is #70. This suggests high demand for Clasp Hands.

**Multiple Usages:**

- A greeting
- “I got you”
- Symbol of unity/solidarity
- Affirmation of friendship
- Arm Wrestling
- Great job
- “Deal!”
- “We’re in this together”
- Bro hug
- Thank you
- Stay strong



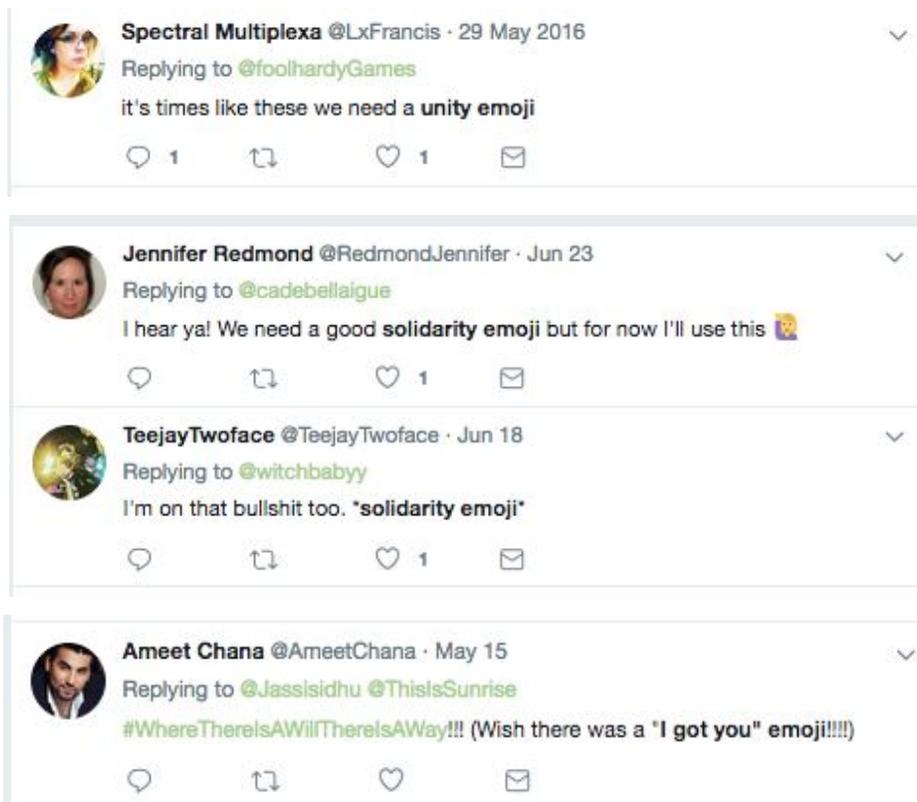
**Use in Sequences:** Potential to work with ZWJ Sequences for skin tone similarly to the other hand emojis.

Due to the lack of consistency of the name of this hand action, it is difficult to find representative Google trends or Instagram data.

**C. Image Distinctiveness:** The closest existing emoji, the downward angled, traditional, formal handshake, is easily distinguishable from the upward angled casual handshake.

**D. Completeness:** The clasping hands would add greatly to the existing set of common hand gestures. Its meanings are not captured in any of the others in the set, but it is just as, if not more common than the others.

**E. Frequently Requested:** There are many requests on Twitter for unity, solidarity, and even “I got you” emojis. Here’s a sample:



The image shows a vertical stack of four tweets from Twitter. Each tweet includes a profile picture, the user's name and handle, the date, the text of the tweet, and interaction icons (reply, retweet, like, and direct message).

- Tweet 1:** User: Spectral Multiplexa @LxFrancis · 29 May 2016. Replying to @foolhardyGames. Text: "it's times like these we need a **unity emoji**".
- Tweet 2:** User: Jennifer Redmond @RedmondJennifer · Jun 23. Replying to @cadebellaigue. Text: "I hear ya! We need a good **solidarity emoji** but for now I'll use this 🤝".
- Tweet 3:** User: TeejayTwoface @TeejayTwoface · Jun 18. Replying to @witchbabyy. Text: "I'm on that bullshit too. **\*solidarity emoji\***".
- Tweet 4:** User: Ameet Chana @AmeetChana · May 15. Replying to @Jasssidhu @ThisIsSunrise. Text: "#WhereThereIsAWillThereIsAWay!!! (Wish there was a **"I got you"** emoji!!!!)



**Amanda E. Herbert** @amandaehbert · 8 Nov 2016



Replying to @pleasntpeasnt

: I can't like this, but I'm really wishing that there was a "solidarity" emoji.

1 1



**priority rynnterrupt** @aurynn · 6 Nov 2016



Replying to @jordantcarter

😞 I wish there was a **solidarity** emoji.

1 1



**Lzafeer Ahmad** @lzafeer · 5 Oct 2016



How many social media posts is an acceptable show of solidarity with the Indian army? Does FB have a "showing **solidarity**" emoji/button

1

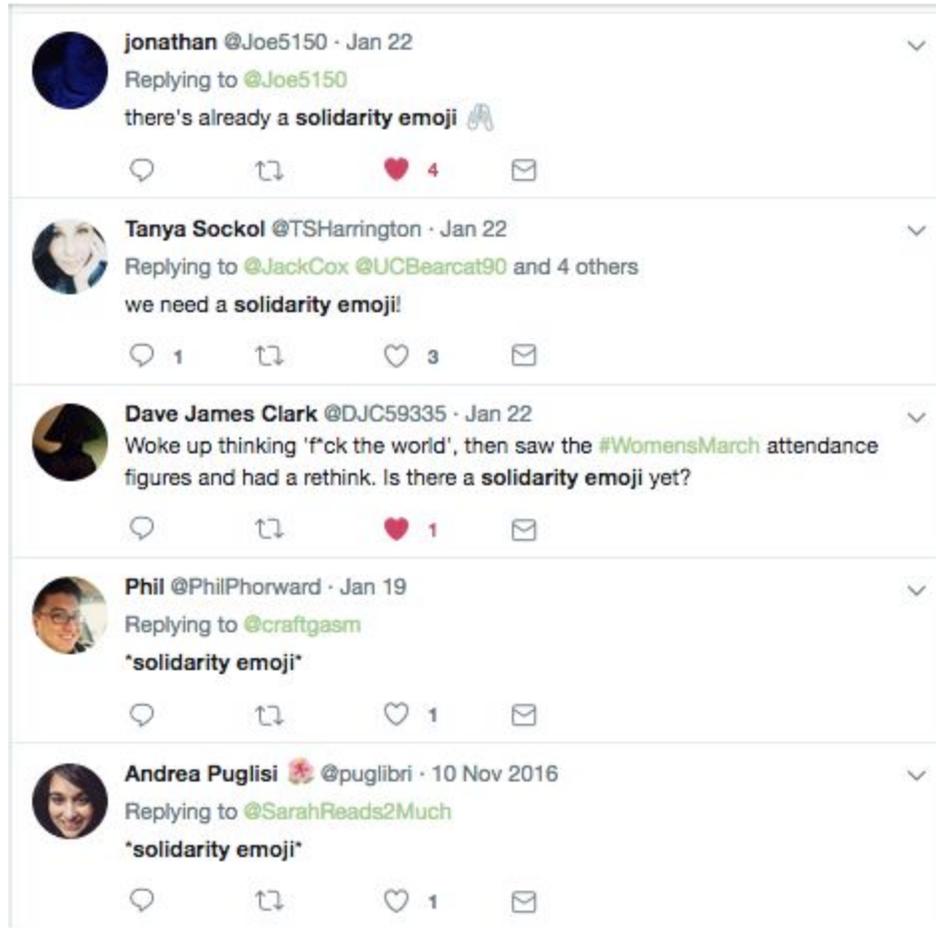


**Heather** @heathernh97 · 20 Sep 2016



Replying to @isajeep

Wow. \*insert hug emoji or **solidarity** emoji or just...\* I got nothin. But I hear you.



## 5. Selection Factors For Exclusion: Counter Arguments

### A. Overly Specific

The clasp hands are not overly specific because they do not have an entirely fixed meaning. It is also not an arbitrarily specific type of handshake, since it is common in many parts of the world. There are only two ways for two hands to really grasp each other, and this is one of the two.

### B. Open-Ended

The clasp hands is somewhat open ended, since no hand gesture is universal across global cultures. But embracing hands to show solidarity is probably as close to universal as it gets. This gives it a meaning that while dynamic, is dynamic within a guessable range of meanings.

### **C. Already Representable**

The “raised first” emoji could be used as a hand raised in the “solidarity” symbol but it is not a universal symbol. In Mexico, for example, that symbol means “f\*\*ck your mom.” The handshake could also contend to represent the a greeting, but it is more formal than the bro-shake portrayed by clasping hands, and is not also a broad symbol of solidarity.

### **D. Transient**

This style of handshake has been around at least as long as the 1936 film Tarzan Escapades in which it is depicted. Solidarity,unity, and teamwork will never be transient concepts.

### **E. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities:**

There are no famous logos or UI icons that feature hands clasping in this manner. There is no specific person or deity associated with hands clasping in this manner.

## 6. Sort location

**Category:** Smileys & People

**Placement:** Before or after Handshake

## 7. Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored: N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping:

Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping: