

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1880/21
13 December 2021

ENGLISH only



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

Statement

in Response to the Address by the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non- Discrimination

**as delivered by Ambassador Armen Papikyan
at the 1348th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

09 December 2021

Madame Chairperson,

We welcome the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, Prof. Regina Polak, Rabbi Andrew Baker and Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci back to the Permanent Council.

Distinguished Representatives,

Exactly one year ago, during our last meeting, and throughout the year, my delegation presented numerous facts and cases of extreme manifestations of hate speech, hate crimes, atrocities and extra-judicial killings, as well as destruction of Armenian cultural and religious heritage, places of worship and cemeteries, alienation and/or expropriation of churches and many other crimes committed during and after the 44-day war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan and its allies. It should be emphasized that all of these crimes and recurrences occur on the basis of the long-standing practices of hatred, discrimination and intolerance generated against Armenians due to their ethnic, religious, civilizational

and many other components constituting the Armenian identity. We expressed the hope that the issues raised by my delegation would be properly addressed and that you would redouble your efforts to deliver on your mandate.

Alas, the issues we raised here have received little, if any response, but we stand ready to be corrected in this regard.

Dear colleagues,

All OSCE participating States have agreed that manifestations of intolerance and discrimination threaten the security of individuals, our societies and our countries as a whole. Thus, we have recommitted ourselves for the internationally recognized prohibition of discrimination, without adverse distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. We also emphasized the need to consistently and unequivocally speak out against acts and expressions of hatred, especially in political discourse, and advocate tolerance, mutual respect and understanding. In our commonly agreed documents, we have also committed ourselves to counter prejudices and misrepresentation, particularly in the fields of education, culture and information. Unfortunately, the current situation clearly demonstrates the functional inefficacy of our actions.

Meanwhile, we are witnessing the growing effectiveness of perpetrators and the villain regimes behind them. One such example is a country with deeply rooted anti-Armenian hatred and intolerance, which tries to portray itself as a beacon of intercultural and interfaith dialogue. It has, with a certain degree of success, privatized these concepts, channeling huge amounts of money to create such an image, not least by bribing international officials and politicians through well-established corruption schemes.

Madame Chairperson,

We took note of certain measures taken by the ODIHR to improve its reporting on hate crimes. We encourage further such measures and expect more determination from the ODIHR in this regard.

We also draw your attention to the recent ruling of the International Court of Justice, in which it granted almost all the provisional measures requested by Armenia against Azerbaijan in relation to the latter's violation of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The High Court ordered Azerbaijan "to prevent incitement and promotion of racial hatred and discrimination, including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin", thereby implicitly recognizing the state-induced nature of this policy.

Let me also refer to the latest report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which recognizes new forms of intimidation against the Armenian community in one of the OSCE participating States, as well as the risks that the Armenian religious heritage sites face there.

In conclusion, let me once again thank you for your appearance at the Permanent Council.

Thank you.