



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

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**Statement
on the Current Issue "International Day for the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination", delivered by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan
at the 1559th Meeting of the Permanent Council**

26 March 2026

Mr. Chair,

We thank Cyprus for bringing this important topic to the agenda of the Permanent Council on behalf of the European Union.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination we reiterate that racism, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance erode democratic governance, deepen inequality, and pose serious threats to human dignity, peace, and comprehensive security.

Armenia is mindful, from its own historical experience, of the devastating consequences of hatred and intolerance when left unaddressed. We reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ICERD, which remains the central international instrument in combating and eradicating racial discrimination worldwide.

Addressing racism in all its forms and manifestations requires comprehensive public policies, effective institutional frameworks, and sustained international cooperation. In this regard, Armenia remains firmly engaged with international human rights mechanisms.

We highly value the role of the UN CERD Committee, whose reporting and guidance are essential in supporting the implementation of the Convention. Within our broader region, we also recognize the important contribution of the Council of Europe, whose instruments and monitoring bodies play a crucial role in advancing efforts against racial discrimination. In this context, the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights deserve particular mention as key mechanisms for upholding the principles of non-discrimination and ensuring accountability.

Armenia believes that the OSCE also has an important role to play in this field. Respect for diversity, equality, and human dignity lies at the core of comprehensive security. Their erosion constitutes a direct threat to peace and stability. We remain deeply concerned by the persistence, and in some cases the rise of hate crimes and hate speech across the OSCE region. Manifestations of antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christian hatred, racism and discrimination against persons belonging to national minorities continue to challenge our shared values and commitments. The early warning and prevention efforts should fully take these threats into account.

Today, these risks are further amplified by the rapid development of digital technologies. Online platforms can accelerate the spread of hate speech, disinformation, and extremist narratives across borders and at unprecedented speed. It is therefore essential to reaffirm that the same human rights that apply offline must also be protected online.

In this regard, we attach particular importance to the work carried out by OSCE institutions, as well as the CiO's Personal Representatives on tolerance and non-discrimination. Their mandates in monitoring, reporting, and supporting participating States in the implementation of commitments remain relevant.

Finally, we wish to underscore that no strategy to combat racism and intolerance can be complete without a strong emphasis on education. Armenia actively promotes the strengthening of the international framework for Education for Peace within the United Nations and other multilateral platforms. We are convinced that education grounded in human rights, tolerance, and mutual respect remains one of the most effective long-term tools in the fight against discrimination.

Thank you.