



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
TO THE OSCE

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## STATEMENT

**on the International Day of the Girl Child  
delivered by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan  
at the 1538<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council**

*16 October 2025*

Mr. Chairman,

On the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, Armenia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls. We recognize the immense potential of every girl and the urgent need to dismantle the structural and societal barriers that continue to hinder their full participation in public, economic, social, and cultural life.

This day serves as a powerful reminder of the pressing challenges that persist. Challenges such as gender-based violence, early and forced marriage, unequal access to education, and limited opportunities for leadership and decision-making.

Empowering girls is not only a matter of human rights and social justice, but also a critical investment in peace, security, and sustainable development. When girls are educated, safe, and supported, they become powerful agents of change in their families, communities, and nations.

Armenia has undertaken important legislative and policy reforms to protect the rights of girls and combat gender-based violence. Notably, amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which came into effect in 2024, strengthen the legal framework to better prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

To further protect girls from harmful practices, Armenia amended its Family Code in 2024 to set the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 for both parties, ensuring that all marriages are based on full, free, and informed consent. These legal reforms are supported by the 2025–2028 Strategy for the Implementation of Gender Policy, which is complemented by nationwide educational and awareness campaigns aimed at transforming discriminatory social norms and promoting gender equality.

In addition, Armenia is advancing a new, systemic approach to child protection. The National Assembly is currently reviewing a comprehensive Law on the Rights of the Child, which aims to align national legislation with international standards and ensure a child-centered framework for safeguarding the rights and well-being of every child.

Recognizing the importance of digital inclusion in today's world, Armenia also prioritizes digital literacy and access to technology for girls, ensuring their meaningful participation in public life. At the 58th session of the Human Rights Council, Armenia led a joint statement on digital technologies and the rights of women and girls, supported by nearly 70 countries.

In conclusion we remain steadfast in our efforts to ensure that every girl can grow free from discrimination and violence, with equal opportunities to shape the future.

Thank you.