



### **Amb. Ara Papian**

Ambassador (Ret.) Ara Papian was born in Yerevan, Armenia in 1961.

#### **Education**

- 1984, graduated from the Department of Oriental (Middle Eastern) Studies of Yerevan State University with an undergraduate degree.
- 1989, received a postgraduate degree in Armenian History from the Yerevan State University.
- 1994, graduated from the Moscow Diplomatic Academy, Russia.
- 1998, graduated from the NATO Defense College, Rome, Italy.
- 1999, attended a special course in Public Diplomacy in Oxford, United Kingdom.

#### **Professional Experience**

- 1981-82 and 1984-86, active-duty military interpreter/translator (Farsi) in Afghanistan.
- 1987-91, Professor of Armenian language and literature at Melkonian Educational Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus, the most prominent Armenian private educational establishment in the Diaspora.
- 1991-1992 Second Secretary of the US and Canada Division of the American Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 1992-1993, Second Secretary of the Armenian Embassy in Tehran. A founding team member of the Embassy.
- 1995-1996, Second Secretary of the Armenian Embassy in Bucharest, Romania.
- 1997, Charge d'Affaires of the Armenian Embassy in Bucharest, Romania.
- 1997-99, Head of Iran Division of the Middle East Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 1999, Head of Security Cooperation Division of the Security Issues and Arms Control Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

- 1999-2000, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of Public Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 2000-06 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to Canada.

### **Research and Political Activism**

Following his departure from the Foreign Service, in March 2006, Amb. Papian founded *Modus Vivendi* think tank, one of the key objectives of which was to conduct research on the U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's Arbitral Award and its implications for Armenia's foreign policy.

He has pushed for Armenia's de-colonization and real independence from Russia and a shift towards the West and is one of the leading advocates of the need for Armenia to become a Major non-NATO Ally of the United States.

Ambassador Papian is well-known across Armenia and the Diaspora and maintains an active public profile, with thousands of media appearances/interviews over the years. He is widely considered as one of the top experts in Armenia on International Law and all Treaties concerning Armenia and the region.

In 2020, Amb. Papian became a founding member of the National-Democratic Alliance movement and in 2021 a Board Member of the National-Democratic Alliance political party.

Amb. Papian is a dual Canadian-Armenian national with residences in Yerevan and Ottawa. He is married, with two sons.