

Ms Gulnara Shahinian is an Armenian national. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Philology from Yerevan State University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Law from St. Petersburg Institute of International Law and Economy, Russian Federation.

Ms Shahinian's past work experience includes being elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the City Council of Yerevan and as head of the Foreign Affairs Department, later as a national programme officer for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM Yerevan), where she was responsible, in cooperation with the Government of Armenia, for the development of migration policy and policies towards refugees and IDP's, as well as for research on trafficking from Armenia. She is a member of the board of a number of international organisations and the NGO "Democracy Today ", where she consults on the programmes related to women's leadership and counter trafficking. She also worked for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as a consultant on the project "State responses to trafficking in human beings in the countries of the Black Sea Region".

Ms Shahinian currently is UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, where she is responsible for developing an awareness campaign on modern forms of slavery and developing specific country reports and recommendations, as well as annual thematic reports to the Human Rights Council. She is also working as a consultant for the "Assistance to victims of trafficking project" of the United Methodist Church for Relief.