International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the importance of freedom of expression and children's rights in a democratic society. Examine the challenges faced by individuals expressing dissent during armed conflicts and the role of international institutions in protecting them.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Freedom of expression, Article 19 of UDHR, ICCPR, Convention on the Rights of the Child, peaceful dissent, child protection, refugee rights, non-refoulement, asylum, international accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

The reported case of Russian teenager Masha Moskaleva, whose anti-war drawing attracted official action against her family, highlights the challenges faced by individuals expressing dissent during armed conflict. The case raises broader questions about freedom of expression, child welfare and protection from persecution.

Importance of Fundamental Rights

- **Freedom of expression:** Enables citizens to communicate opinions, question public policy and participate in public debate.
- **Children's rights:** The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises children's right to express their views and requires protection of their welfare.
- **Protection from arbitrary action:** Fair procedures and independent judicial review help prevent disproportionate state responses to peaceful expression.

Role of International Institutions

1. **United Nations:** Human rights mechanisms monitor violations and encourage compliance with international standards.
2. **UNICEF:** Supports child protection and advocates for children's rights.
3. **UNHCR:** Assists refugees and asylum-seekers within its mandate and promotes protection against unlawful return.
4. **Civil society:** Documents alleged abuses and provides legal and humanitarian assistance.

Way Forward

Governments should ensure that restrictions on expression meet international legal standards, protect children from retaliation and provide fair asylum procedures.

Conclusion

Freedom of expression and child protection are essential to human dignity. Effective safeguards require accountable institutions, independent justice and international cooperation, particularly when conflict and political repression force families to seek refuge abroad.

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