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Roma children cases -- governments must avoid stereotyping

While child protection is a very serious issue, state responses must be proportionate and non-discriminatory, Amnesty International said today after in two separate cases Roma children were reunited with their families in Ireland.

They were briefly separated for confirming their parentage. This incident took place in the wake of the case in Greece where a blond girl was taken from a Roma family and her parents were accused of abduction and the search of the real parents is going on.

“The authorities must refrain from targeting Roma as an ethnic minority. Creating the perception that ethnicity can be linked to criminality is discriminatory. The effects of this not only fuel racist stereotypes but are potentially disastrous,” said Jezerca Tigani, Europe and Central Asia Deputy Programme Director at Amnesty International.

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