

## Statement for Postville Diversity Council

The Postville Diversity Council's primary goal is to promote understanding among the diverse cultures of Postville through educational programming. In the past several years the members have offered such programs and in the process have established relationships with many immigrants. Various individual members have acted as advocates for immigrants. Since the ICE raid of Agriprocessors has disrupted our community and caused hardship and suffering for both immigrant families and other members our small town, we find it imperative to make a public statement about the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

We support the following:

1. Work permits as a beginning for a path to citizenship for those immigrants who are working in this country and who have followed our laws while here
2. Consistent enforcement of workplace safety laws
3. Recognition of basic human rights and values of immigrants and their families
4. Border protection policies that are consistent with humanitarian values
5. Improvement in our trade policy with Mexico and Central America so that their economies can thrive and provide the necessities of life for their citizens

The political system has failed to deal with the basic human rights of immigrants as well as demand for labor in our country. We ask our political leaders to take action this fall.

Approved: August 21, 2008

Submitted by Merle Turner, 520 Wilson St, Postville, IA 52162