

7 Ways to Take Action to #ShutDownBerks

After seven years of using the Berks Family Residential Center as a prison to indefinitely detain immigrant families, as of January, 2022 ICE is using the detention center as an immigrant women's prison. This center is a misuse of federal tax dollars. Communities in Berks County are in need of better funded schools, violence prevention services, addiction treatment services and greater access to healthcare NOT prisons. **Join us to demand human rights and human services and tell President Biden: We don't need immigrant prisons. It's time to #ShutDownBerks and #FreeThemAll**

Action #1: Make a Call (or two)

The Shut Down Berks Coalition coordinates a monthly call-in day on the 1st Tuesday of the month, but you don't have to wait!

- Organize a call-in day over lunch with co-workers
- Add calling the the White House to your weekly schedule

Sample Script:

"I am writing to say that the Berks County, Karnes and Dilley prisons should no longer be utilized by ICE. The Biden administration should immediately end these ICE contracts. People are being hurt by rising inflation and the ongoing impact of the pandemic, putting women seeking asylum in prison is not how we should be using our federal tax dollars. Shut Down Berks NOW!"

Leave a message for:

- ⇒ 202-282-8495 – DHS Secretary Mayorkas (anytime)
- ⇒ 202-456-1111 – White House switchboard (11 am - 3 pm)

Action #2: Write a Letter or Send an Email

Write a letter or postcard to the President and/or DHS Secretary to tell them in your own words why you want them to Shut Down Berks and invest in real human services for the surrounding community. You can organize a letter writing party and spend time with friends while writing a letter or get a package of pre-stamped postcards and send one every time you read something about Berks or immigrant detention.

- White House: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, DC 20500
- Email President Biden: www.whitehouse.gov/contact
- Email DHS Secretary Mayorkas: alejandro.mayorkas@dhs.gov

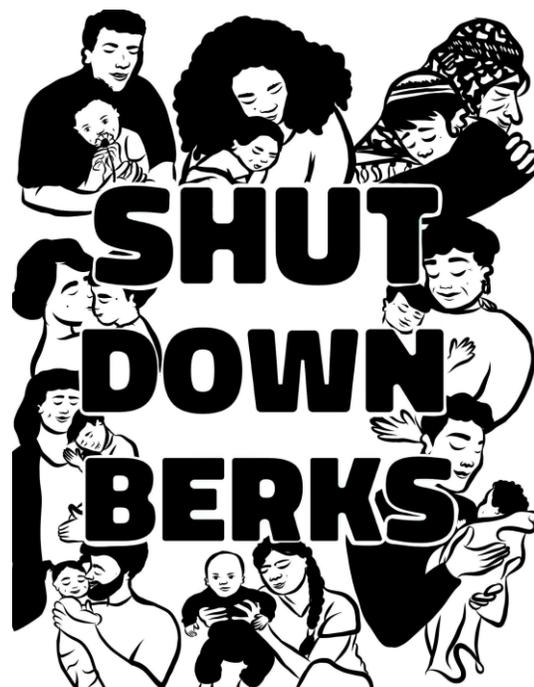
Action #3: Sign the Petition

Take 30 seconds to sign our [petition](#) and share with friends. Click or enter this short link: bit.ly/SDBC_Petition

Action #4: Send a Message on Social Media

Write a post on whichever social media platform you prefer about why you think this immigrant prison should be shut down and tag the following accounts in your message.

- Twitter: @POTUS @VP @SecMayorkas
- Facebook: @POTUS @VP
- Instagram: @POTUS @VicePresident



Action #5: Send a Video Message

Personalize your message on social media even more, by taking one minute to record a video message to the White House on why they should end the ICE contract and Shut Down Berks right now! Consider organizing a video making party with your friends and networks.

Step 1: Take out your phone and put it on selfie mode

Step 2: Record a short message of 30-60 seconds long. Sample script:

“As a resident of Pennsylvania, I believe in the right to freedom and migration. As long as the Berks County Detention Center remains open, those rights are being violated against immigrant women seeking asylum. President Biden, Vice President Harris and Secretary Mayorkas, end the Berks ICE contract today!”

Step 3: Post the message to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or any other social media platform that you use. Use the hashtags #ShutDownBerks and #FreeThemAll and tag @POTUS @VP @SecMayorkas to make sure they see your message!



Action #6: Organize a Local Event

Help spread the word by organizing a local event! For example, you could:

- Host a candlelight vigil or protest in a central location in your town and read some of the statements from former families and women who have been detained.
- Put together a presentation for your church group, neighborhood association, or book club using the #ShutDownBerks campaign materials.
- Ask your city council to issue a resolution calling on the President to end the Berks ICE contract.

Use materials posted on the Shut Down Berks Campaign website to make your event a success:

<http://paimmigrant.org/campaign-to-shut-down-berks/>

Action #7: Support the Campaign!

Get the latest updates on the Shut Down Berks Campaign by following us on social media and signing up for our newsletter.

Twitter: @ShutDownBerks

Facebook: @ShutDownBerksCoalition

Instagram: @ShutDownBerksCoalition

Text: 717-500-1852 to be added to our mailing list

Sign up your organization, congregation, grassroots group, college, university, law firm, private business or foundation as a [campaign supporter](#)! Short link: <https://rb.gy/zwuwy>

Support the organizing efforts by [donating](#) at <https://freemigrationproject.org/shut-down-berks-campaign/>. Please type “Shut Down Berks” under “specific project or campaign”.

In Solidarity,
The Shut Down Berks Coalition