

# Reasons to Occupy Moscow

I am one of the Occupy Moscow members. I stand in Friendship Square silently with a sign. I stand there because the people of this country are being nicked and dimed until they have lost the chance to advance in life.

I stand there because it is expensive to be poor. In these days, banks and other financial institutions charge more for loans, have higher interest rates and add fees to people who make less than \$500,000 a year. The money they take then goes to pay for elected officials so they will make laws benefiting corporations to make even more money off of those with lower incomes.

It is an incestuous, cyclical system that is not democratic and does not serve the vast majority of the people of this country.

I stand in Friendship Square because the people who do not have health insurance also do not have the money to buy enough federal lawmakers in order to change the status quo. I stand in the cold because it is unethical to keep someone from renting an apartment because their credit rating, as determined by these same financial institutions, is deemed too low. I stand there because a credit rating is an invention by which the poor are kept poor via higher rates on mortgages, credit cards and fees for banking services.

As I stand there, occasionally cars with young men drive by and give me the finger and yell (obscenities) to me and the other members of the group.

I will continue to silently hold up my sign and accede to the tenet of our group, that we remain nonviolent, for as long as I can. It will be a long time.