



# Legalize it



Jamaican-born Peter Tosh wrote and released **Legalize it** in 1975 in response to his ongoing victimization by the Jamaican police. It was also meant to be a political statement supporting cannabis legalization for medical purposes in particular.

## Legalize it Lyrics

Legalize it, don't criticize it  
Legalize it, yeah, yeah, and I will advertise it  
Some call it tampee, tampee  
Some call it the weed  
Some call it marijuana, marijuana  
Some of them call it ganja, ganja  
Every man got to legalize it, and don't criticize it  
Legalize it yeah, yeah, and I will advertise it  
Singers smoke it  
And players of instrument too  
Legalize it, yeah, yeah  
That's the best thing you can do  
Doctors smoke it, nurses smoke it  
Judges smoke it, even the lawyer too  
So you've got to legalize it, and don't criticize it  
Legalize it, yeah, yeah, and I will advertise it  
It's good for the flu, a good for asthma  
Good for tuberculosis, even umara composis  
Got to legalize it, don't criticize it  
Legalize it, yeah, yeah, I will advertise it  
Birds eat it, ants love it  
Fowls eat it, goats love to play with it  
So you've got to legalize it, don't criticize it  
Legalize it, yeah, yeah, and I will advertise it  
Keep on telling you, legalize it

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Peter Tosh / Marcelo Peixoto / Rafael Lopes



# Legalize it



## Activity steps

1. Play **Legalize it** once, inviting those who feel comfortable to close their eyes while listening.
2. Walk through the **Legalize it** handout and play the song again.
3. In pairs or small groups, discuss the questions below.

## Reflect and discuss

**Legalize it** was banned when released, but not suppressed. Singer Peter Tosh became famous. In 1977, Tosh said: “We are the victims of Rasclot circumstances. Victimization, colonialism, gonna lead to bloodbath.”

- To what degree do you think was Tosh right? Explain your answer in discussion or in an essay.