At a cannabis café in the Arab town of Tira in Israel, people legally and freely buy, smoke or use medical marijuana.

Smoky Monkey is the first café of its kind in the country, and its owner Karam Shbeeta says he's on a mission to change the mentality about people who use the product for medical purposes. Shbeeta was inspired by people who used cannabis from the illegal black market. He thought that he could help people with chronic pain to take the drug safely.

Most people who come to Smoky Monkey suffer from chronic pain from work injuries, violence, or car accidents. The staff check their medical file, and according to the file, they decide whether cannabis is suitable for the person.

When Shbeeta opened the shop, he received death threats and threats to burn down the café. However, little by little, people started to understand the idea behind the café.

Difficult words: mentality (a person's or group's thoughts), **chronic** (when something continues for a long time), **medical file** (a record of a patient's medical history, treatments, and tests).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *mentality, chronic and medical file*

2. Where is the first cannabis café in Israel located and what is it called?

3. What are people allowed to do at the café?

4. What is the owner's mission for opening such a café?

5. Who usually visits Smoky Monkey café?

6. What does the café require their customers before they decide whether they can buy cannabis or not?

7. How did people react when Karam Shbeeta started Smoky Monkey?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Is marijuana legal in your country? For both recreational and medicinal use?

2. What is your attitude towards the use of marijuana?

3. In some countries, the use of marijuana for medicinal use has been legalized. Are you against it? Why or why not?