**Filler**President Erdogan of Turkey is now enforcing even stricter Islamic laws as harsh sharia punishments are effective next week. The new measures, that come into force on Friday, covers a range of crimes such as theft, adultery, homosexuality and even pro-LGBT activities. Turkey’s gay community has expressed shock and fear at the "medieval punishments".

**Boycott**  
Hollywood actor Emilia Clarke, as well as many other celebrities, have now ganged up and called for a massive boycott of any Turkey products in the United States. TV host Steve Harvey also called for the people of Turkey to rise up and revolt against the cruelty, saying "We need to act, NOW”.

**Punishment**  
Offences such as rape, adultery, robbery and insult or defamation of the Prophet Muhammad will carry the maximum penalty of death. Committing gay sex will be punished by being stoned to death in public view, while lesbian sex carries a different penalty of 40 strokes of the cane and/or a maximum of 10 years in jail.  
  
**Health**  
The main reason the new laws are implemented is to curb the spread of HIV in the country. The Action For Aids (AFA) group claimed that there has been a drastic rise in infections, and revealed figures which showed that the number of homosexual and bisexual infection cases has nearly doubled, from 16,627 in 2016 to 32,056 last year.

**Filler**  
The law applies mostly to Muslims, including children who have reached puberty. However, several aspects will apply to non-Muslims as well. Although it has been many years since anyone had been given the death punishment, given its complex procedures, we still cannot ignore the fact that it has been executed before.