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Relationship expert points out flaw in the new 'sex ban' during GMB debate

Kate Mansfield, known as the love coach, criticised the new law during her appearance on the ITV programme, branding it 'ridiculous'

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By **Vickie Scullard** TV and features writer
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NEWS



➤ Relationship expert points out flaw in the new 'sex ban' during GMB debate

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The government rattled more than a few cages when it announced that it was imposing a law that prevents sexual activity between those who do not live in the same household.

But today dating expert Kate Mansfield, known as the love coach, criticised the ban during her appearance on Good Morning Britain before pointing out a flaw.

The new guidelines, dubbed the 'sex ban' form part of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020 bill, state that: 'No person may participate in a gathering which takes place in a public or private place indoors, and consists of two or more persons'.

Other new measures include groups of up to six being able to meet outdoors for exercise and barbecues.

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Hosts Susanna Reid and Piers Morgan opened the floor for debate between Nadia Essex, who was speaking for the law, and dating expert Kate Mansfield, who called it "ridiculous".

Nadia, who appeared with her baby, explained that the government was simply being stricter after criticism that it had not been tough enough on lockdown measures relating to the coronavirus pandemic.



➤ Nadia Essex on GMB (Image: ITV)

"They're damned if they do and damned if they don't," she said.

But Susanna pointed out that the "balance had changed" and where as previously we had to have an exemption for leaving our home, this new law specifically bans anyone from meeting a person or people in a private setting.

Kate agreed and explained to the panel why this cannot be a one size fits all law.



➤ Kate Mansfield called the ban 'ridiculous' and pointed out a flaw (Image: ITV)

"There has to be the distinction made between [couples] and single people who are dating," she said.

"In fact a lot of single women have found love in the time of corona because they have had to focus on the non physical.

"But I think with this, established couples who have children together but decide not to live together... I think it's too little too late.



➤ GMB debated the 'sex ban' (Image: ITV)

"Although we have to take responsibility for being responsible health wise, if two people are self isolating and they live separately then there's absolutely no reason why they shouldn't meet.

"I think it's ridiculous."

While addressing Nadia, Susanna went on to suggest that the new law - which could carry a £100 fine - is a "most remarkable intrusion and criminalisation of people's private lives".

She said: "This is the government saying to two consenting adults, you can't do that."

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Nadia criticised the law as "silly" and we would likely see a u-turn after the backlash, but pointed out that a second wave of coronavirus was on the cards.

She said: "A second wave is inevitable, we've all seen the beaches and beauty spots - it's coming. The scientists are saying it's coming. Everyone is saying it is inevitable now.

"I suppose the government is trying to preempt how we can stop it and if this is part of it, maybe this is the way they are thinking."

GMB airs weekdays from 6am on ITV.

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