ANDREW MARR SHOW, 23RD APRIL, 2017

PAUL NUTTALL MEP
Leader, UKIP

ANDREW MARR: Now then Ukip have been making news this morning as we have just been hearing, so what is really going on and does this party actually have a real purpose any longer? Paul Nuttall its leader joins me now. Let's start off Paul Nuttall, talking about banning the burka. Why are you going to do this?

PAUL NUTTALL: For two reasons. Firstly, obviously we have a heightened security risk at the moment and for CCTV to be effective you need to see people's faces, because whether we like it or not in this country there's more CCTV per head than anywhere else on the planet, we're the most watched people and for that to be effective you need to see people's faces. Secondly, there's the issue of integration. I don't believe that you can integrate fully and enjoy the fruits of British society if you can't see people's faces. And, you know, look at some of the statistics. 58% of Muslim women are economically inactive. 22% don't speak English to any great level. What we need to do is we need to ensure that these people are fully integrated into British society and you can't do that if you're hidden behind a veil.

ANDREW MARR: How does this actually work? 'Cause presumably you don't ban dress codes inside people's houses, so if they step onto the street what happens then? They'd be arrested?

PAUL NUTTALL: No. What happens in France for example is there's a fine and what we're doing is we'll come in line with other European countries such as Belgium, Bulgaria, there's a ban for example in the City of Barcelona, some places in Italy and indeed Angela Merkel's talking about this in Germany at the moment. And interestingly, Manfred Weber, who's the leader of the biggest

group in the European Parliament is now talking about an EU wide ban. We can either be on the curve with this or behind the curve. I'd rather –

ANDREW MARR: You could be a good Europhile as usual. Now what's changed however since 2013 when you said – this is Paul Nuttall, 'what we wouldn't do is go down the line of enforcing a blanket ban. We are a libertarian party.' What has changed since 2013?

PAUL NUTTALL: Well firstly, I think there's obviously the bigger security threat that we face now, but indeed you look at Trevor Philips' Report last year into Muslims into the UK. You look at the work that Dame Casey has done on this issue. Integration is actually getting worse in Britain at the moment, not better. This will go.

ANDREW MARR: But the security threat was there in 2013. Integration was no better in 2013 and you were in favour. And you said, we're a libertarian party. We don't interfere with what people wear and what they eat and so forth.

PAUL NUTTALL: We know more about integration problems now as a result of Dame Casey's report and look, do you know, I can't walk into a bank with a balaclava on or a crash helmet. You know if I can't do it and other people can't do it I don't see why we have a special interest...

ANDREW MARR: You're also going for Sharia law and Sharia courts. Again why?

PAUL NUTTALL: Because I don't believe that we should have a para legal system in this country.

ANDREW MARR: Are you doing the same thing for Jewish courts?

PAUL NUTTALL: Well, Beth Din is slightly different. We've had Beth Din courts in this country which date all the way back –

ANDREW MARR: They're slightly different, they're Jewish not Muslim.

PAUL NUTTALL: No hang on. They go all the way back to the days of Cromwell. The Jewish population in Britain, orthodox Jewish population is falling. It's about a quarter of a million now. The issue surrounding Sharia is that the Muslim population is doubling decade on decade. It's three million now, it'll be six million soon and you know, Trevor Philips' Report showed that a quarter of Muslim people in Britain want to see Sharia replace British law in areas which are predominantly Muslim populated. You know we've got a problem with this and either we deal with it now or we'll deal with it down the line.

ANDREW MARR: You going to allow mosques to stay open?

PAUL NUTTALL: Of course mosques can stay open. This isn't an attack specifically on Muslims, it's all about integration.

ANDREW MARR: A lot of people watching will say Ukip is losing its purpose because we are coming out of the EU and you're pivoting to become an anti-Muslim party.

PAUL NUTTALL: It cannot be right that we have courts or councils in this country where the words of a woman is only worth half that of a man. That has no place in a liberal democratic functioning western democracy.

ANDREW MARR: And you don't fear that by actually targeting what people wear you are infringing upon something which is kind of intimate and personal?

PAUL NUTTALL: No I don't. As I say, you know, if CCTV is to be effective in an age of heightened terror you need to see people's faces and I want to see real integration.

ANDREW MARR: For a lot of people this is part of who they are, just as much as your - I mean Kevin Maguire was joking about your flat cap. That is part of who you are. This is part of who these women are.

PAUL NUTTALL: But you can see my face. You know I'm not a security threat.
And beyond that, as I say –
ANDREW MARR: Glad to hear it.
PAUL NUTTALL: - it's about integration. And I said earlier, 58% of Muslim women in this country are economically inactive. If you're not showing your face it precludes you from a lot of jobs.

ANDREW MARR: All right. Let's move onto another thing that you've announced this morning which is you're suggesting that Ukip will not stand against strongly pro Brexit Tory candidates at marginal seats.

PAUL NUTTALL: No I didn't just say Tory candidates, there could be people like Kate Hoey as well and this is –

ANDREW MARR: Pro Brexit MPs.

PAUL NUTTALL: This will not be an order which is coming down from the top of the party, I will speak to branches over the coming weeks and we will make decisions. What I don't want to see happen is good Brexiteers, not fly by night, or five till midnight Brexiteers, people who've campaigned for years for Brexit, I don't want to see them lose their seats and Remainer be there in their place.

ANDREW MARR: So let's take somebody like Craig Mackinlay who was an office holder in your party before he became the Tory MP for Thanet South. One of your target seats in Ukip, one of the few seats where you could actually win that seat. Are you saying to Ukip in Thanet South, Craig Mackinlay's a good Brexiteer, therefore let's not stand against him?

PAUL NUTTALL: No, I'm not. No I'm not. What I – I think the Craig Mackinlay case is a bit different than most to be perfectly honest with you because of the way he was elected and the issues surrounding Nigel Farage and everything else, but you know there is people – there are people in for example Berry, like David Nuttall who's sitting on a majority of 250 who's been a good Brexiteer all his life. I mean these are conservations –

ANDREW MARR: You won't stand against him?
PAUL NUTTALL: No, I didn't say we won't stand against him. The conservations that I will have with branches, but what I won't do is make the mistake that we made in 2010 where the party Leader told branches to stand down. This shall be done...

ANDREW MARR: Okay. Quick game. Stand against them or don't stand? Theresa May, stand or don't stand?

PAUL NUTTALL: Not my decision. Down to the branch.

ANDREW MARR: Boris Johnson, stand or don't stand?

PAUL NUTTALL: Not my decision, down to the branch.

ANDREW MARR: This is a really boring game.

PAUL NUTTALL: It is. It's going to get very boring.

ANDREW MARR: Paul Nuttall, are you going to stand and if so where? You going to go back to Stoke?

PAUL NUTTALL: No. I will make a decision in the coming week as to where to stand. Obviously I'll be having conversations with branches.

ANDREW MARR: But you are going to stand as a candidate for Ukip in this election?

PAUL NUTTALL: Again, I'll have conversations with branches. As I say, everything is – nothing's decided.

AM; Come on. Conversations, conversations. Anyway, Paul Nuttall for now, thank you very much indeed for talking to us.

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