

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Cond Nast stays mum amid concerns over new Teen Vogue editor

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Alexi McCammond is expected to take the helm at Teen Vogue later this month. Image credit: Cond Nast

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Media group Cond Nast is facing mounting criticism for its response to an ongoing controversy surrounding the incoming editor in chief of *Teen Vogue*.

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After political reporter Alexi McCammond was appointed to the publications top post, Teen Vogue staffers voiced concerns over racist and homophobic tweets from Ms. McCammond's past. Cond Nast has not taken action over the controversy surrounding one of its most progressive titles at a time when awareness of racial justice is at a peak in the fashion and media industries.

Cond controversies

Cond Nast announced Ms. McCammond's appointment to the top post at *Teen Vogue*, scheduled to take on March 24, on March 5. The previous editor in chief, Lindsay Peoples Wagner, left Cond Nast for *The Cut* in January.

Although it does not have the same stature as *Vogue*, the online-only *Teen Vogue* welcomed more than 10.8 unique visitors to its site in January 2021. Its audience is primarily Gen Z consumers, one of the most in-demand demographics for brands.

The 27-year-old Ms. McCammond, who most recently covered the presidential campaign of Joe Biden for the online publication Axios, will be responsible for the editorial vision of Teen Vogue's digital, social and video platforms.

"Alexi has the powerful curiosity and confidence that embodies the best of our next generation of leaders," said Anna Wintour, global editorial director of *Vogue* and chief content officer of Cond Nast, in a statement. "Her interest in fashion, wellness and important issues in the lives of the *Teen Vogue* audience and broad knowledge of business leaders, elected officials, influencers, photographers and filmmakers is unrivaled, and I'm so very pleased that she will be bringing her expertise and talents to our team."

Ms. McCammond began her career in magazines as a freelancer at Cosmopolitan. She was also named "Emerging Journalist of the Year" by the National Association of Black Journalists in 2019.

However, *Teen Vogue* staffers expressed concerns over anti-Asian and homophobic tweets by Ms. McCammond

from 2011 and 2014. While the incoming editor acknowledged the tweets in the past, she faced criticism for failing to label her comments as racist.

On March 8, more than 20 *Teen Vogue* staffers released a statement confirming they wrote to Cond Nast management about the hiring of Ms. McCammond. [The Daily Beast](#) reported staff members shared concerns with Ms. Wintour and CEO Roger Lynch.

A note from teen vogue's staff pic.twitter.com/oyfhN0mlk8

Allegra Kirkland (@allegrakirkland) [March 8, 2021](#)

Teen Vogue senior political reporter Allegra Kirkland shared the statement on Twitter

"We've built our outlet's reputation as a voice for justice and change we take immense pride in our work and in creating an inclusive environment," the statement said. "In a moment of historically high anti-Asian violence and amid the on-going struggles of the LGBTQ community, we as the staff of Teen Vogue fully reject those sentiments."

Teen Vogue addressed the situation on Instagram the following day, after Ms. McCammond apologized for the tweets according to media reports.

"We respect and value our diverse community of *Teen Vogue* readers, and we're committed to continuing the coverage you know us for," the statement, which was signed by *Teen Vogue* and Ms. McCammond, said. "As a team, we've had frank, thoughtful and real conversations over the last days about inclusivity and the way forward."

[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Teen Vogue (@teenvogue)

A joint statement from Teen Vogue staff and Alexi McCammond

The statement was solely shared on *Teen Vogue's* Instagram, and the publication has not posted on its other social channels, including Twitter and Facebook, in recent days. However, social media users continue to flood *Teen Vogue* accounts with comments expressing their disappointment at the situation and criticizing the title and publisher for offering little in concrete action.

Designers Phillip Lim and Prabal Gurung have joined Asian celebrities including Olivia Munn and Daniel Dae Kim in expressing support for *Teen Vogue* staffers.

Anti-Asian racism and rhetoric has been top of mind in recent weeks, after an uptick of racist crimes against the Asian American community. Public figures, influencers and brands are speaking out in an attempt to prevent future acts of violence targeted at Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans (AAPI) and to ensure the safety of consumers ([see story](#)).

This is the second major incident around racism at Cond Nast in less than a year.

In June, Adam Rapoport resigned as editor in chief of *Bon Appetit* after photos resurfaced of him wearing brownface at a Halloween party in 2013. The magazine was also accused of other racist or toxic work practices, including not compensating people of color who appeared in popular *Bon Appetit* Test Kitchen videos.

According to its first annual [Diversity and Inclusivity 2020 Report](#), only 10 percent of Cond Nast's U.S.-based senior leadership positions are held by Asian employees and 5.5 percent are held by Black employees ([see story](#)).

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