

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Cond Nast suspends publishing operations in Russia

March 8, 2022



Vogue Russia debuted in fall 1998. Image credit: Cond Nast Russia

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Media company Cond Nast is suspending publishing operations in Russia after the country passed new censorship laws amid its invasion of Ukraine.

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The move was announced by CEO Roger Lynch in a [memo](#) to Cond Nast's global staff on March 8. Cond Nast Russia was founded in 1998 and owns five brands, including *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Glamour* and *Architectural Digest*.

Russian censorship

On March 4, Russian president Vladimir Putin signed a new law that [criminalizes independent war reporting](#), with journalists facing penalties of up to 15 years in prison. The law had passed unanimously through parliament earlier that day.

Under the new law, any deployment involving Russian armed forces cannot be described as "war" or "an invasion" effectively creating a state of strict censorship. Russia's invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24.



The Vogue Russia homepage calls for peace, with anti-war dove imagery.

"With journalists and editorial teams around the world, it is paramount that we are able to produce our content without risk to our staff's security and safety," Mr. Lynch said in the staff memo. "Recently, the Russian government passed new censorship laws that now make it impossible for us to do so.

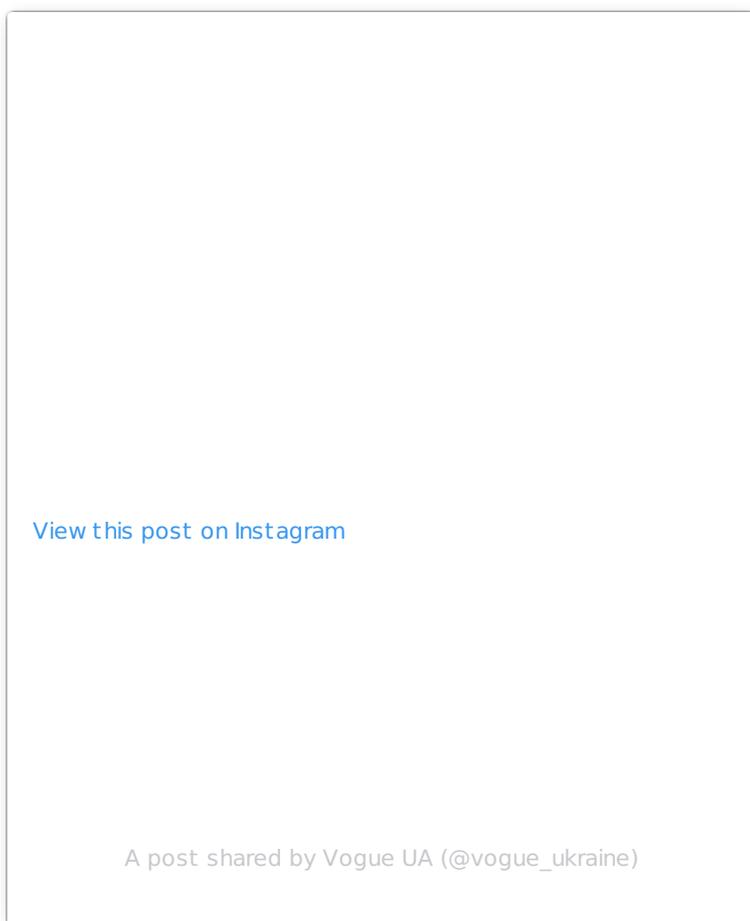
"To that end, we have decided to suspend all of our publishing operations with Cond Nast Russia at this time."

Cond Nast Russia has an audience of more than 21 million across all five of its brands.

Other media outlets, including Bloomberg, CNN and *The New York Times*, have suspended reporting from Russia because of the threat of prosecution, while the BBC is set to resume reporting on March 8. *The Times* is also removing its journalists from Russia, **citing safety reasons** an unprecedented move, as foreign media reported from the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War.

Meta's social media network Facebook has also been blocked in Russia, while Instagram, YouTube and Twitter remain available. Video app TikTok has restricted users in Russia from uploading new content as it reviews the new law.

At press time, *Vogue Russia* was still reporting from Paris Fashion Week, although comments on its **Instagram** have been disabled. The top story on the site's homepage is headline "Vogue is calling for peace."



Vogue Ukraine is sharing a look at the plights of families

Meanwhile, *Vogue Ukraine* is continuing publishing content, including stories on the fashion industry's support for the country and advice for women traveling to the border.

On March 2, *Vogue Ukraine* publicly called on fashion and luxury brands to place an embargo on Russia as the country's invasion of Ukraine continues to unfold. The publication also appealed specifically to several luxury brands to cease working with the country, tagging brands in an Instagram post (**see story**).