

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Cond Nast exits Russia, shuttering operations

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Vogue Russia is no more. Image credit: Cond Nast

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Media company Cond Nast has formally ceased publishing operations in Russia amid the ongoing war in Ukraine.

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The decision was announced by CEO Roger Lynch in a memo to Cond Nast's global staff on April 19. The publisher has also terminated its franchise agreement with Cond Nast Russia.

"While we've had a successful business in Russia for over 20 years, the continued atrocities brought on by this unprovoked war and the related censorship laws have made it impossible for us to continue operating there," Mr. Lynch said in his [letter](#).

On March 8, Mr. Lynch confirmed that Cond Nast was suspending Russian operations ([see story](#)), but the move was not presented as long term. Rival publisher Hearst has also [ceased its Russian media partnerships](#) with Shkulev Media and Fashion Press, impacting several titles including *Elle Russia* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

Cond Nast Russia was founded in 1998 and owned five brands, including *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Glamour* and *Architectural Digest*. It boasted an audience of more than 21 million across all its brands.

Here is Mr. Lynch's letter in full:

Dear all,

When Putin first began this senseless war, we knew we had to take immediate action to protect our employees and our journalism and decided to [suspend](#) our publishing operations in Russia. As the war has waged on, the escalation in the severity of the censorship laws, which have significantly curtailed free speech and punished reporters simply for doing their jobs, has made our work in Russia untenable. At last count, over [650 companies](#) have now exited or substantially reduced their day-to-day business in the country.

Today, we informed our Russian colleagues of the difficult decision to terminate our franchise agreement and cease publishing in the market. While we've had a successful business in Russia for over 20 years, the continued atrocities brought on by this unprovoked war and the related censorship laws have made it impossible for us to

continue operating there.

As we take the necessary steps to cease publishing, we expect about 10 percent of our staff in Russia will remain to fulfill certain outstanding obligations. It's our absolute priority to do all we can and support everyone affected, including providing enhanced severance and benefits, employee assistance and outplacement programs, and dedicated People team guidance in applying for open positions in other markets.

Words simply cannot express how difficult this time is for so many. What's been weighing heavily on my mind is our staff who did not choose this war, and yet continue to bear some of its consequences. I'm extremely grateful to our teams in Russia for their many years of dedication in building great publications there that have lived up to the highest standards of Cond Nast.

Thank you all for your continued care and compassion.

My best, Roger

[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Vogue UA (@vogue_ukraine)

Vogue Ukraine continues publishing and covering the war. This caption translates to: The people always have the right to protest against oppression

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