

Warsaw, 24 May 2022

## **Pride Issue — the June edition of *Vogue Polska* being a tribute to the LGBT+ community**

**The June issue of the *Vogue Polska* magazine is a symbolic manifestation of support for the LGBT+ people, without whom one could not imagine the fashion industry, but whose situation in Poland still needs to be improved. The cover shoot by Stefan Heinrichs presents activists, artists, couples and single people, representing various generations, who proudly share their love stories during the Pride month.**

*“According to this year’s ILGA-Europe report, Poland again ranked as the least friendly EU country for LGBT+ people. The situation is worse in a number of non-EU European countries, i.e. Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Turkey, but it is perhaps not much consolation. Our state does not offer same-sex couples and kids from LGBT+ families equal rights and protection and does not provide for ex officio prosecution of offenses or homophobic or transphobic hate speech. The Polish penal code does not prohibit discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity. In Copenhagen, we could hold our hands or walk around wearing makeup. In Poland, we are afraid. We can get punched in the face at any moment,”* says Sebastian, one of the models taking part in our photo shoot.

*“There would be no fashion industry as we know it without the LGBT+ people. Fashion gives them the sense of belonging, creative freedom and space to express themselves. There are also LGBT+ people among our friends and relatives. It is painful to watch their basic human rights violated every single day. June is the PRIDE month all over the world. The cover page of this issue of *Vogue Polska* expresses our symbolic support for the LGBT+ people, who are integral parts of our lives. Anna Koniecznyńska, a *Vogue* journalist and author of the book titled “*Polacy pod tęczą flagą*” (“*Poles Under the Rainbow Flag*”), talks to the people, who took part in our photo shoot, about their life in Poland, their challenges and dreams. Alicja and Patrycja, who build a rainbow family, took part in a “*We are a Family*” campaign organized a while ago by the Love Does Not Exclude Association. The main theme of short videos created as part of the campaign was: “*Bound by love, divided by the Polish law*”. As we believe love will triumph, we are waiting for the moment when Poland passes the law banning the discrimination of LGBT+ people and granting equal rights to everyone,”* says Ina Lekiewicz, the editor-in-chief of *Vogue Polska*.

The June issue of *Vogue Polska* is dedicated to the LGBT+ people. To take part in the cover photo shoot by Stefan Heinrichs, we invited activists and artists, couples and single people, millennials and zoomers, who share their pride and diverse shades of love. There is also an interview with Aaron Rose Philip — the first black, transgender model using a wheelchair to appear on a fashion show of a luxury fashion house. The photo shoot by Erdem Moralioglu presents queer, non-binary and homosexual models. Michalina Murawska covers “*Bal u Bożeny*” — one of the most interesting cultural initiatives in Warsaw, whereas Anna Koniecznyńska writes about raising a child in a non-heteronormative family.

The June issue of *Vogue Polska* with two different cover pages is now available on [Vogue.pl](http://Vogue.pl). The paper edition can be purchased as of Thursday, May 26.

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