

## Alexandra Kutas



The fashion industry isn't particularly known for diversity and inclusion. However, few trailblazers like wheelchair-bound Alexandra Kutas, have shaken the very notion of a traditional model - a tall, sleek, and slender young women. Paralyzed since birth, this Ukrainian model- the first runway model in a wheelchair, first fashion model with a disability in Ukraine, an entrepreneur, a public speaker, and also a former adviser to the Mayor of Dnipro on the accessibility of urban infrastructure, has shown to the

world that nothing is impossible once you set your mind to your goals!

Alexandra suffered a spinal-cord injury at birth, which paralysed her from waist down. Yet, this determined individual, from Kiev, Ukraine, refused to take life's challenges lying down. Inspired by the work of British designer Alexander McQueen, who once used a model with a disability, Alexandra developed interest in the fashion world. She was finally spotted by a photographer and was invited to do a shoot.

Since then there has been no looking back for young Alexandra, who has appeared on catwalks across three different continents. In 2018, Alexandra moved to London on a mission to broaden her base. She approached several fashion houses for work through her PR agency. Gradually but steadily she is being accepted for her work, though there is still a long way to go. Alexandra's ultimate goal is a world of equal opportunities where people are seen through their professionalism, drive and humanity, and not by something which was given without choice.

In 2017, she was recognized by the Kyiv Post Top 30 under 30 Award.

Though Alexandra works towards providing more visibility to the disabled through modeling, she is also focused on raising awareness about the larger challenges facing individuals like herself, including the lack of infrastructure for the physically challenged.

