

A report by





### **About Bolo Bhi**

Bolo Bhi means 'Speak up', in Urdu. We are a not-for-profit registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860. Bolo Bhi is geared towards gender rights, government transparency, internet access, digital security and privacy. We are a team of individuals with diverse backgrounds who are passionate about the same causes and believe it is crucial to bridge the gap between rights advocates, policy makers, media and citizens. It is by bridging this gap that one can move ahead to chart a way forward and resolve issues through consensus.

#### **About the Writer**

Imtiaz Noor is a marketing and technology professional with over 10 years of experience in multiple roles. His passion includes digital enablement, digital access and optimizing businesses to use technology for market access and process optimization.

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### Note on the Paper

"Over the last two years, we at Bolo Bhi have engaged with government and non-government stakeholders on the issue of Internet censorship in Pakistan, to find a way to minimize and end it.

While much effort is spent on blocking and censoring content on the Internet in Pakistan, and conversation around it, we wanted to begin a parallel conversation on the potential the Internet and ICT space in Pakistan hold, and how much energy and effort is spent on improving aspects that can foster growth, invite investment and create opportunities.

We decided to interview various industry professionals (whose views are included in the following pages) to gain perspective on how this sector has evolved, what is working and what needs to be fixed. These interviews were conducted during January 2014. At the end of each section in this report are recommendations by industry experts. We intend for this report to be a conversation starter, not the final word.

Farieha Aziz

Director, Bolo Bhi