Group 2

You are working for a large corporate company with branches throughout the world. During an employee survey the issue was raised about gender differences in salaries. Although HR firmly claims that in this company women do not earn less, there is suspicion that this may be not true. It is well documented that in similar companies male employees earn on average 30% more than their female counterparts.

Your are concerned that you may earn less just because you are a women. You meet other concerned and socially engaged female employees and decide to find out whether there is a gender gap in your firm. You asks HR to provide a list of all salaries. HR refuses but provides the information that the vast majority of the employees has monthly salaries between 1000 and 6000 Euro, and that the average salary is 3500 Euro.

The members of your group list their own monthly salaries: 4970, 4010, 5015 and 5995 Euro. You calculate the mean (namely 4997.5 Euro) and do a t-test. In this way, you find out that the women earn more than the average salary and this is even associated with a significant P-value of 0.03.

Will your women group stop its battle for equal pay because the test say they actually earn more than average? Will they on the contrary strive for salary increases for men to restore equality?

What could be the reason for this low P-value?

Would the women have another reaction if their mean salary would have been 3100 Euro with a P-value 0.22 to be lower than average? Would men react differently if confronted with this situation and numbers?