Scenario Three - Recent Rape

Sam is one of your colleagues. She's a member of the admin support staff and she's been in your department for about ten years. She's got a really sparkling personality and always seems to be cheerful, even when everyone else seems down in the dumps.

You bump into Sam in the kitchen one morning and she appears to be moving around a bit gingerly. You ask if she's OK and she replies that she is but you're immediately concerned because rather than her usual light hearted response, her voice is dull and empty. Your response is "You're not OK, what's wrong?"

Sam starts to make a joke (her usual response) but to your surprise she bursts into tears and for a few minutes, can't speak. When you get her sitting down in a quiet room she tells you that she has just spent most of yesterday and last night at the police station reporting a rape. You ask her if she wants to talk about it but she says she's all talked out. The only thing you know is that the man who raped her is also a colleague of yours.

Question 1.

What is your immediate response to Sam?

Question 2.

What are you going to do now that you know a colleague of yours is being investigated for rape?

Question 3.

Where do you think Sam can get support – either inside or outside of the university?