FORM 3 (Rules 6 and 17)

Clergy Discipline Measure 2003

Statement in support of a Complaint, or in support of an Answer to a Complaint

Box for use only by the Registrar of Tribunals	*Statement submitted by:* *Name of maker of statement:* *Date of statement:*

In the matter of the complaint

Enter the name of the complainant.
Enter the name of the member of the clergy about whom a complaint is made.

made by The Board of Deputies of British Jews

against: Rev Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: Revd Andrew Ashdown

My contact address, including postcode, is:

The Vicarage, 33 Crescent Rd, North Baddesley, Southampton. SO52 9HU

***Telephone & e-mail details are optional, but it could be helpful to the registrar and bishop to have them.*

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: andrewashdown@talktalk.net

The matters in this statement to which I refer are all within my own knowledge, except where I indicate otherwise. If anything is not within my own knowledge then I set out the source of any matters of information and belief:

You must explain in your statement how you know about each of the matters you describe, ***unless*** *you know about them because you have* ***personally*** *seen or observed them.*

I write to add my voice to the many letters of support that you have received for Revd Dr. Stephen Sizer in the face of the accusation of anti-semitism which has recently been made against him.

I am deeply sorry to hear that Revd Dr. Stephen Sizer has once again been subject to accusations in what appears to be a slanderous, unjustified and on-going campaign to discredit and silence him. Stephen has written an extremely detailed and thorough response which I believe in every respect stands up to scrutiny. I stand by the letter of support that I previously wrote. Stephen stands falsely accused. There is nothing about him in person, word or deed which could justifiably be construed as 'anti-semitic'. Perhaps his status as one of the world's leading academic experts in the field of Christian Zionism inevitably makes him a political target. But Stephen's prophetic Christian ministry and vocation has always remained focussed on truth, peace, reconciliation and justice. These outrageous and false accusations should therefore be decisively dismissed once and for all.

I have known Stephen for many years, and have attended Conferences at which he has spoken throughout this country and also in Jerusalem and in Boston, USA. I have also read most of his books, which have become globally recognised and respected texts for anyone wishing to understand the historical, theological and political implications of Christian Zionism, and its impact upon the situation in Israel/Palestine.

Stephen is a man of deep Christian and intellectual integrity, generosity and compassion, who, in speaking out about the devastating effects of Christian Zionism in the Holy Land, is deeply concerned for peace and justice in that land for Christian, Muslim and Jew alike . Never have I encountered anything in what he has said or written that could be construed as being anti-semitic. Indeed, as an evangelical, his passion for justice for Palestinians is clearly matched by a love for the Jewish people, and a genuine desire for the State of Israel to be a truly democratic nation in which peace, equality, justice and security prevail for all the people of the land.

As a regular visitor to the Holy Land, I know that Stephen speaks difficult truths that are hard to hear, but he always does so with a gentleness and Christian love that is inspiring and engages people of all backgrounds and faiths. And of course he counts Jews, Christians and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians, amongst his friends who all hold him in the highest esteem.

Stephen is a prophetic voice, whose message is echoed by highly respected religious leaders across the world, and who need to be heard. I hope that you will continue to support Stephen in his ministry and his mission.

I believe the facts in my statement to be true. I am aware that the contents of this statement may be made public

You must sign and date this statement.

Signed: Andrew Ashdown

Dated: 27 November 2018