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: COLIN GILBERT CHAPMAN

My contact address, including postcode, is:

12 DANIELS PARK, MILTON, CAMBRIDGE, CB24 6UD

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

**My telephone number is: 01223 - 860317

**My e-mail address is: beirutchapman@hotmail.com

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 have known Stephen Sizer for over 30 years, read all of his major books, and worked with him - most recently on an international forum for Muslim-Christian dialogue. I have always been impressed with the rigour of his research in his doctoral work on Christian Zionism. He has always demonstrated to me a very clear grasp of the many biblical, theological and political issues involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and I have admired his willingness to engage with these issues in the public sphere where they are so hotly contested.

It is hardly surprising that his view on these complex and sensitive issues have been so strongly criticised and attacked. I have noted, however, that he has publicly acknowledged and apologised for some instances where he recognises that he has not been careful enough in his use of social media.

As an ordained Anglican priest myself, and as someone who has written on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I find it hard to understand how Stephen Sizer's writing and his advocacy on this issue show any evidence of anti-semitism. His statement seems to me to provide a very courteous, detailed and convincing response to the complaint made against him, and I find it hard to see how his work could ever be described as 'unbecoming or inappropriate to the office and work of a clerk in Holy Orders.

If the Church of England prides itself on being a church that is broad enough to hold together people with different views on sexuality and a whole variety of other ethical, social and political issues, one would expect it to be broad enough to hold together people who have different approaches to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I would suggest that the issues which Sizer raises – and the particular viewpoint which he brings - need to be openly discussed both within the church and in the context of Jewish-Christian relations

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: COLIN CHAPMAN

Dated: 27 November, 2018