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.

made by The Board of Deputies of British Jews

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

against: Rev Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: Rev. David B. Smith

My contact address, including postcode, is:

11 Herbert Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW, Australia

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

**My telephone number is: 61-409-620-009

**My e-mail address is: dave@fatherdave.org

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.*

Rev. Stephen Sizer is a friend and a colleague in ministry with whom I have been closely associated for many years, most obviously through our common commitment to justice and peace in Israel/Palestine.

I am president of *'Friends of Sabeel, Australia'*, a group committed to Palestinian Christian liberation theology. Earlier this year we sponsored Stephen's visit to Australia, where he spoke in churches and theological colleges across the country. It was an extremely successful visit.

I have watched Stephen weather the storm of criticism that has been levelled against him for many years now and I have scrutinised the complains made against him as closely as possible. Unfortunately, they are not dissimilar from complaints that have been levelled against me – directed to both my bishop and to the *Australian Federal Police* (AFP). Thankfully, in my case, both my bishop and the AFP dismissed the complaints very swiftly.

My Jewish friends are always keen to assure me that I *'don't have an Antisemitic bone in my body'*. I believe that is true of me. I believe it is equally true of Stephen. Both of us are committed to justice and peace in Israel/Palestine, but both of us are equally committed to defending the rights of Jewish people to live in peace as we are to Palestinians.

I will not go into specifics, but I could fill pages here with my detailed understanding of Stephen's position on the issues involved. Having read a good deal of his published material and having listened to his presentations multiple times, I do not have any doubts as to the integrity of Stephen's Christian character, nor of his genuine commitment to the good of the Jewish community.

I encourage you to stand by Stephen, both for the sake of the Gospel and for the cause of peace in Israel/Palestine, which is something for which we all pray.

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:



Rev. David B. Smith, B.A., B. Th., Dip. A
Parish Priest, Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill
Managing Director, Fighting Fathers Ministries
President, Friends of Sabeel Australia
Marrickville Citizen of the Year 1994 & 2009
Nominated Australian of the Year 2004, 2009 & 2017

Dated: November 29th, 2018