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: Ian Sidney Curtis

My contact address, including postcode, is:
110/1a Gowanbrae Drive, Gowanbrae 3043 Australia

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

**My telephone number is: +61412368464

**My e-mail address is: florian_curtis@bigpond.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 the Rev. Stephen Sizer since I began attending Christ Church, Virginia Waters, in June 2010. I attended for two years. Since leaving the UK I have stayed in touch with Stephen and receive his Peacemakers Trust material. I am proud to be on his International Board of Reference for this organisation. I also assisted with the organisation of his Melbourne visit earlier this year.

I attended most of the meetings which had in Melbourne, and one of the radio interviews he did. I listened to a podcast of a second radio interview. As a previous National Director with World Vision International in Jerusalem for two three-month stand-in appointments I have some knowledge of the situation in Israel with regards to the Palestinians, so have some basis for discussion with Stephen. Never once have I heard Stephen to express any anti-Semitic views whatsoever, not specifically, not by nuance or imputation. Indeed, I would say the opposite. And I simply find it ridiculous to imply that Stephen is an anti-Israeli conspiracy theorist.

Yes, at times Stephen was critical of Israel, in exactly the same way many of his listeners and myself would be, but never could any of this criticism be construed as anti-Semitic or Stephen described as a 'fellow traveller of terrorists'. To agree to this caricature would be to deny normal freedom of speech to many normal citizens. Indeed, in several small group meetings, sometimes with people far more critical of Israel. Stephen was against anti-Semitism in any form, against any form of violence, and only offered a peaceful way forward as the only alternative to the Israeli-Palestinian situation. His use of the Bible was, in my view, quite appropriate.

I did not hear the ABC interview referred to but I do know that several letters to the Editor were written in support of Stephen and the ABC by listeners when news of the interview was published by commentators normally viewed as right-wing here in Australia. To provide some balance I would say the ABC is constantly vilified by the strong pro-Jewish lobby here in Melbourne for being too pro-Palestinian.

From my knowledge of Stephen, from many intimate discussions with him, from hearing him speak and preach on many occasions, I would assert that the charges against him are baseless.

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: AM.

Dated: 27/11/18