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:*<br><br>*Name of maker of statement:*<br><br>*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: Ibrahim Brian Hewitt

My contact address, including postcode, is:
55, Henley Road, Leicester, LE3 9RD.

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

**My telephone number is: 07793006812

**My e-mail address is: ibhewitt@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:**

I have known Rev Dr Stephen Sizer for at least 10 years. We have shared many platforms at conferences and seminars on matters to do with the Middle East or interfaith issues. On occasion, such platforms have included representatives of Jewish organisations in this country.

Through such an association we have become firm friends, although we don't meet anywhere near often enough these days. Nevertheless, we keep in touch via social media.

I have the utmost respect for him as a caring human being with firm belief and conviction in his Christian faith, and as a serious academic whose knowledge and opinions on his specialisms I trust and value. His dedication to peace and justice is enviable.

It was with shock, therefore, that I heard about the allegation that he is "anti-Semitic", because I have never, ever, heard or read anything said or written by Stephen that is remotely racist or otherwise discriminatory in any way, shape or form. The fact that he counts many avowedly non-Christians like myself among his close friends and acquaintances speaks volumes. I am blessed to know him.

Having been the subject of such allegations myself, from members of the pro-Israel lobby in Britain of which the Board of Deputies is an acknowledged part (and having been party to a libel action against the Board which was settled out of court at the Board's request), I believe that they are vexatious complainants whose aim is to discredit anyone and everyone who stands up for Palestinian rights. They claim that legitimate criticism of the State of Israel as part of such a stand is "anti-Semitic" when, in fact, credible academic and legal sources demonstrate otherwise.

Stephen is a credit to his faith, church and family and should be lauded as such, not pursued in this way by those following a particular political ideology with the interests of a foreign state at heart rather than good community relations in this country. He is not a racist.

*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 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:**

**Dated: 27 November, 2018**