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: **Mark Braverman**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

6819 Selkirk Drive, Bethesda MD 20817 USA

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

**My telephone number is: +1 301 320 0049

**My e-mail address is: m_braverman@yahoo.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.*

My name is Mark Braverman. I am a Jewish American, a friend and colleague of Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer, and the author of *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews, and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land.* I am trained as a clinical psychologist, but have spent the last half decade involved full-time in writing and lecturing about the Israel-Palestine situation, Zionism, post-Holocaust theology, and the function of Christian-Jewish relations in the current discourse and politics of this issue. More information about my work can be found at www.markbraverman.org.

Rev. Sizer has informed me about the current claims that have been made that he is anti-Semitic, or that he has published anti-Semitic views. I have known Rev Sizer for three years, have read his work, seen his video productions, and have heard him lecture on several occasions, on one occasion sharing the podium with him. I wish to state in the strongest possible terms and unequivocally that these claims are groundless. I have never heard an anti-Jewish word from Rev. Sizer, in public or in private, nor have I detected a shred of anti Jewish feeling or opinion in his speech or writings, or for that matter, any hostility toward the State of Israel itself or its citizens.

In my opinion what you are hearing from the Board of Deputies, Anglican Friends of Israel and the Council of Christians and Jews are examples of the response of elements in the Jewish community as well as inside the churches to the growing awareness in the world that all is not right with the project to establish a Jewish homeland and refuge in historic Palestine. This kind of *ad hominem* attack on voices such as that of Rev. Sizer, who challenge the dominant political narrative of an innocent Israel beset by implacable enemies motivated by anti-Semitism or a theological narrative that requires unqualified support for Israel's expansionist policies is very familiar to me. I see it my own country, and I have encountered it in other countries where I have lectured, including South Africa, Germany, and the Netherlands. These attacks, whether made on political or theological grounds or both, are dangerous and must be confronted head-on. I am happy to see that you agree and have acted accordingly.

It is possible that the actions that have been taken to discredit and silence Rev. Sizer are being taken in good faith and with honorable intentions – I have no personal knowledge of the organizations and individuals involved. But do know that, given that the accusations are groundless, they do not serve the security or well-being of the State of Israel or its citizens, and are not friendly acts toward the Jewish people. I am not naïve about anti-Semitism – it remains strong and deeply-rooted in Western civilization. But I do not make the mistake of confusing responsible criticism of the State of Israel or scholarly, biblically-grounded inquiry into the validity or legitimacy of Zionism with anti-Judaism.

As a people, we Jews are in great peril as a result of the past and current actions and policies of the State of Israel, actions that are in violation of our own tradition and values. We must be called to account. Rev. Sizer's work on the theology that underlies and currently is being used to support illegal and sinful policies is a critical component of the growing international movement to bring these actions to an end – not only for the sake of the suffering Palestinian people, but in order to liberate the citizens of Israel from the consequences of being part of a regime that meets the international definition of apartheid. The church plays a leading role in this struggle, as it did in my country during the Civil Rights Movement, and as it did on a global basis to help bring an end to apartheid in South Africa,. The work and voice of Rev. Sizer has been and must continue to be a key asset in this struggle.

I urge you to continue to support him in his courageous and urgently needed work in this area.

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: 22 November 2018