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: Revd Dr Alex Awad

My contact address, including postcode, is:

2455 West 23 Avenue, Eugene, OR 97405, USA

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

**My telephone number is: 001 541 525 2085

**My e-mail address is: alexbrendaawad@gmail.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 heart ached when reading the false accusations targeting Stephen Sizer. I know from private conversations and from hearing Stephen speak in Bethlehem, in England and in the USA and from reading his books and articles that he has always advocated for peace and justice for all the people who live in Israel and in Palestine.

Certainly Stephen has called for the end of Israeli occupation of Palestinians due to the brutality of that occupation and its harm on both the occupied and the occupier. Had it been the other way around, I know that Stephen would, with the same dedication and energy, called for the end of Palestinian occupation of Israelis.

Those who accuse Stephen of anti-Semitism do harm to the real victims of anti-Semitism. Intelligent people should easily differentiate between criticizing Israel due to acts of brutality against the Palestinian population and unfounded acts of anti-Semitism.

I can sincerely testify from years of interaction with Stephen and his writings that he is not only clear of anti-Semitism but that he also abhors it.

It is my hope and prayer the the Church of England will choose to stand with justice as they study the irrational accusations against Stephen. I call on the Bishop to follow the example of Jesus and His faithful followers through the ages who stood with the truth regardless of the risk and cost.

May God continue to bless, inspire and protect Stephen as he defends the oppressed and as he faces opposition for standing against oppression.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Alex Awad
Former Pastor: East Jerusalem Baptist Church and former United Methodist missionary to Israel/Palestine

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: Alex Awad

Dated: 29 November 2018

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: Revd Chris Rose

My contact address, including postcode, is:

St Clement's, 1 St Clement's Court, London EC4N 7HB

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

**My telephone number is: 0207 588 2638

**My e-mail address is: chris@amostrust.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.*

I am writing on behalf of Amos Trust to voice our concern over the accusations made against Stephen Sizer of anti-Semitism.

As you know, Amos Trust is a small creative Christian human rights organisation that was named after the call of the prophet Amos: 'Let justice flow like rivers and righteousness like a never ending stream'.

We have worked closely with Stephen for many years. I have heard him speak on numerous occasions and read his written works and I have no doubt that Stephen is driven by a commitment to justice, peace, non-violence and above all reconciliation.

He is motivated by the cry of Palestinian Christians for justice and solidarity, in the sure belief that this will also provide the best hope for security and peace for Israelis.

The allegations against him are not only unfounded but are a deliberate attempt to try to prevent church leaders from speaking out in a prophetic manner on the situation facing Palestinians.

While it is important to examine such accusations and to ascertain whether there is any validity to them, it is also important to recognise the motivation that lies behind 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: Chris Rose

Dated: 25 November 2018

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: Revd Andrew Ashdown

My contact address, including postcode, is:

The Vicarage, 33 Crescent Rd, North Baddesley, Southampton. SO52 9HU

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

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: andrewashdown@talktalk.net

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 write to add my voice to the many letters of support that you have received for Revd Dr. Stephen Sizer in the face of the accusation of anti-semitism which has recently been made against him.

I am deeply sorry to hear that Revd Dr. Stephen Sizer has once again been subject to accusations in what appears to be a slanderous, unjustified and on-going campaign to discredit and silence him. Stephen has written an extremely detailed and thorough response which I believe in every respect stands up to scrutiny. I stand by the letter of support that I previously wrote. Stephen stands falsely accused. There is nothing about him in person, word or deed which could justifiably be construed as 'anti-semitic'. Perhaps his status as one of the world's leading academic experts in the field of Christian Zionism inevitably makes him a political target. But Stephen's prophetic Christian ministry and vocation has always remained focussed on truth, peace, reconciliation and justice. These outrageous and false accusations should therefore be decisively dismissed once and for all.

I have known Stephen for many years, and have attended Conferences at which he has spoken throughout this country and also in Jerusalem and in Boston, USA. I have also read most of his books, which have become globally recognised and respected texts for anyone wishing to understand the historical, theological and political implications of Christian Zionism, and its impact upon the situation in Israel/Palestine.

Stephen is a man of deep Christian and intellectual integrity, generosity and compassion, who, in speaking out about the devastating effects of Christian Zionism in the Holy Land, is deeply concerned for peace and justice in that land for Christian, Muslim and Jew alike . Never have I encountered anything in what he has said or written that could be construed as being anti-semitic. Indeed, as an evangelical, his passion for justice for Palestinians is clearly matched by a love for the Jewish people, and a genuine desire for the State of Israel to be a truly democratic nation in which peace, equality, justice and security prevail for all the people of the land.

As a regular visitor to the Holy Land, I know that Stephen speaks difficult truths that are hard to hear, but he always does so with a gentleness and Christian love that is inspiring and engages people of all backgrounds and faiths. And of course he counts Jews, Christians and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians, amongst his friends who all hold him in the highest esteem.

Stephen is a prophetic voice, whose message is echoed by highly respected religious leaders across the world, and who need to be heard. I hope that you will continue to support Stephen in his ministry and his mission.

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: Andrew Ashdown

Dated: 27 November 2018

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: Anne Martin

My contact address, including postcode, is:

The Cottage, Blacknest House, Sunninghill, SL5 0PS

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

**My telephone number is: 01344 874160

**My e-mail address is: anmartin@onetel.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 been a member of Christ Church, Virginia Water for the past twelve years.

I am writing to express my support for Stephen, in the face of attacks on his character by Pro- Israeli groups. Their accusation that Stephen is anti-Semitic is quite without foundation in all my knowledge of his preaching, teaching and blogging.

He is a fine and much respected pastor, and I have never heard Stephen utter a word that is not truly biblical, following the teaching of Jesus in seeking to establish peace and reconciliation between Jews and Palestinians.

Having followed the stories of life on the ground in Gaza and the West Bank for more than 10 years, and seen it for myself on 3 occasions, I value the stand for justice that Stephen makes.

It is quite wrong to conflate opposition to the Israeli government actions from building the separation wall, illegal settlements, house demolitions, imprisonment of young Palestinians and a litany of other such actions which are contrary to international law, with anti-Semitism.

There are a great many Jews, both in Israel and elsewhere, who believe the same way, and espouse the same cause as Stephen Sizer, yet no one labels them as anti-Semitic.

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: Anne Martin

Dated: 27 November 2018

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: RT REV DR BILL ANDREW MUSK

My contact address, including postcode, is: 38 FALAISE, WEST QUAY, NEWHAVEN, EAST SUSSEX BN9 9GG

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

**My telephone number is: 07909 544332

**My e-mail address is: billamusk@gmail.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.*

AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF REFERENCE FOR PEACEMAKER TRUST I HAVE KEPT ABREAST OF, AND SUPPORT, THE MINISTRY OF REV DR STEPHEN SIZER IN HIS FOCUS ESPECIALLY ON SEEKING TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

THE STEPHEN SIZER WHOM I KNOW IS A PERSON OF BOTH COMPASSION AND PASSION, WHO REPUDIATES ANTISEMITISM AND ALL FORMS OF RACISM, TERRORISM, FASCISM AND HOLOCAUST DENIAL.

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: 27/4/18

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

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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 Canon Dr Christopher Michael Neville Sugden

My contact address, including postcode, is:
36 North Hinksey Village, Oxford, OX2 0NA

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

**My telephone number is: 07808297043

**My e-mail address is: csugden@ocrpl..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:

I am not qualified to make a judgement on the details of Rev Stephen Sizer's response to the charges made against him.

I have known him for over ten years to be a person of conviction, consistency and integrity.

The challenge from the chairman of the Board of Deputies and Rev Sizer's response does raise three important questions which those charged with reviewing the case will need to provide answers.

1. **Does the Board of Deputies regard other critiques of the government of Israel and its policies to be anti-semitic? Some of these criticisms have been made by members of the Church of England, its leaders and organisations. For example I was present during the "Caterpillar" debate in General Synod in 2006 which the Church Times reported as below. Was General Synod, including Archbishop Rowan Williams, anti-semitic in debating and passing its motion or Mr Malcouronne anti-semitic in using the term 'browbeaten'?**

THE Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group (EIAG) has advised the Church not to pull its £2.2-million investments out of Caterpillar, the company whose bulldozers have been used by the Israeli government (News, 17 February). The decision, taken at an emergency meeting of the EIAG on Tuesday, goes against last month's vote in General Synod (News, 10 February).

Members of the General Synod, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, voted to heed the call of the Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East "to disinvest from companies profiting from the illegal occupation" [of Palestinian territories]. The motion called on EIAG to have intensive discussions with Caterpillar to withdraw its equipment.

EIAG unanimously reaffirmed on Tuesday its decision of September 2005 not to disinvest from the US-based manufacturer (News, 23 September). It said the group had spent "an unusually large amount of time in engagement with Caterpillar and with the various groups representing Palestinian and Israeli, Jewish and Christian opinion seeking to influence its decision".

It had taken the Synod's resolution very seriously, and given special weight to the letter it received from the Bishop in Jerusalem, the Rt Revd Riah Abu El-Assal. Caterpillar had no current or projected sales of equipment for use by the Israeli government, it said. Its discussions with the company had been productive. "Disinvestment is by definition a last-resort action," it declared.

Keith Malcouronne, who introduced the Synod debate, said on Wednesday that he feared that EIAG had been "browbeaten". "The resolution asked EIAG to engage more intensely with Caterpillar on the issue, and also to take up the invitation by the Church in the Middle East to go and see the situation on the ground, but they have not had time to do either," he said.

"There is a deeper concern: Jewish spokespeople have taken the Synod's concern and motion as anti-Semitic. They don't want to listen to the underlying concern about what is happening. . . EIAG may have stepped back from making an appropriately critical decision because of the plethora of over-reaction by the Chief Rabbi and others. They have allowed themselves to be brow-beaten," he said.

*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.*

2. **Does the Board of Deputies regard the Bible, on which the Church of England bases its doctrine and practice, and therefore by extension the Church of England, as anti-semitic since the Bible contains trenchant criticisms of Jewish leaders for example by Ezekiel and John the Baptist?**

3. **Will the Church of England allow another body to determine for it the criteria by which a critique of the policies of a government, be it Jewish or Moslem for instance, is judged to be respectively anti-semitic or anti-islamic? In other words to be ruled by the criteria: "Offence is purely in the eye of the beholder, and so not subject to any objective standard of judgement."**

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: Ciaran Snyder

Dated: 27 November 2018.

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

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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

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 Marie van der Zyl

Against Revd Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok

My contact address, including postcode, is

89 Winchester Court
Vicarage Gate
London W84AF

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

**My telephone number is: 07814 851666

**My e-mail address is: cohnsherbok@googlemail.com

**Delete as appropriate. If you tick the box you must give reasons – your contact details would then be disclosed only if the registrar so directed.*

☐ **I request that my contact details should not be disclosed to the *respondent/*complainant for the following reasons:**

……

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.*

Before I begin, I should perhaps mention that I have written several books about antisemitism (**The Crucified Jew: 20 Centuries of Christian Antisemitism**, Fount, 1993; **Antisemitism**, The History Press, 2011). I have also been employed by the Counter-Terrorism Agency of the Crown Prosecution Service as an expert witness in a major case involving antisemitism at Leeds Crown Court involving the defendants Simon Sheppard and Stephen Whittle who were tried and convicted in 2009.

I have read the allegations made by Marie Van Der Zyl against Stephen Sizer. I am not able to comment on the range of accusations brought by her since I have no knowledge of the events she describes. But I do want to comment on a key assertion she makes in her complaint. She states that most worryingly Stephen Sizer defended his 2014 Facebook post that Israel and prominent Jewish figures were responsible for the 9/11 attack in New York. This allegation was similarly made by Gideon Falter of the Campaign against Antisemitism which appeared on the BBC in August and was repeated in a statement he made in the Jewish Chronicle on 1st April, 2018:

"Mr Corbyn has spent his political life seeking out and actively defending antisemites like Reverend Stephen Sizer who claimed that Israel was behind 9/11"

This is a very serious charge. Is it true? It is the case that Stephen Sizer included a Facebook link to an article on Wikispooks about the allegation that Israel was responsible for the 9/11 attack. This was undoubtedly an error of judgement. Subsequently Stephen Sizer apologised and expressed his regret for doing so, and categorically asserted that he did not believe that Israel was involved in this attack. I have included his statement which was welcomed by the Diocese of Guilford:

Date: 30 January 2015
The Reverend Dr Stephen Sizer has issued the following statement which has been welcomed by the Diocese of Guildford: Dr Sizer said: "I very much regret and apologise for the distress caused by the sharing on Facebook of a link to an article about 9/11 from Wikispooks. "It was particularly insensitive in that last week coincided with Holocaust Memorial Day. I removed the link as soon as I received adverse feedback, and realised that offence had been caused. "I have never believed Israel or any other country was complicit in the terrorist atrocity of 9/11, and my sharing of this material was ill-considered and misguided."

It is true that some critics of Israel hate Jews—I have dealt with this at length in my book **Antisemitism** in relation to the emergence of modern Arab antisemitism. However, it is simply not the case that all critics of Israel are Jew-haters. Certainly it is the case that Stephen Sizer is highly critical of some Israeli policies. Nonetheless I do not believe that he hates Jews.

Possibly I should add a final note. Stephen Sizer is currently facing considerable anguish. His wife has stage 4 lung cancer. As Jews we pride ourselves on giving our ethical traditions to the world. It is not in accord with those traditions to hound a man unjustifiably when he is facing personal tragedy.

(Continue on a separate sheet or sheets if necessary. State here how many additional sheets you are attaching:…… Please number all such additional sheets)

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: Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Dated: 23 November 2018

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…Marie van der Zyl……
Enter the name of the member of the clergy about whom a complaint is made.	against…Revd Dr. Stephen Sizer……

My full name is:…David John Carter……

……

My contact address, including postcode, is:……..
97, Evesham Road
Leicester
LE3 2BE……

……

***Telephone & e-mail details are optional, but it could be helpful to the registrar and bishop to have them.*	**My telephone number is:…0116 224 1648… ……
	**My e-mail address is:…david@meec.org.uk……..

**Delete as appropriate.*
If you tick the box you must give reasons – your contact details would then be disclosed only if the registrar so directed.

☐ √ **I request that my contact details should not be disclosed to the *respondent/*complainant for the following reasons:**

I have no confidence that the Board of Deputies would not misuse my contact details to target me for what they perceive to be my views on the Middle East……

……

……

……

……

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 about 10 years. I have read two of his books and followed some of his Facebook posts and we have met on a number of occasions.

I have read the complaint by Marie van der Zyl and make the following comments. The substance of her complaint has already been subject to a CDM and was dealt with in 2012-13. Allegations of antisemitism have been investigated by Surrey Police and, since no charges have been brought, must be considered to be unfounded. Anti-Semitism is racist and is covered by the Equality Act 2010 (as amended). I don't know what the CoE attitude is to 'Double Jeopardy' but the legal principle in the UK requires 'new and compelling' evidence.

The complainant provides no new evidence and such evidence as exists is far from being compelling. The Church would be well advised to consult their lawyers to ensure that taking notice of the historic complaints would not infringe Stephen's Human Rights. As to the complainant; repeating the allegations without providing additional and fresh evidence is surely defamatory.

The two recent incidents complained of relate to an interview Stephen did on ABC, an Australian media organisation. Ms van der Zyl in her claim states 'Sizer doubled down on his past controversial statements, claiming that Zionists have "diluted the definition of anti-Semitism to include criticism of Israel"'

It is difficult to know exactly what the problem is here; does she contend that the definition has not been diluted, or that it was not 'Zionists' who did the diluting? If not Zionists who else might see value in adding to existing definitions to include criticism of Israel? And what does 'doubling down' mean here, or is it intended to amplify the 'noise'?

That the definition has been diluted is surely self-evident. The 'working definition' as set out by the Bucharest Plenary on 26th May 2016 attaches a number of examples without which its 'definition' fails at the basic level of definition. The IHRA 'definition' is new and may reasonably be expected to be subjected to scrutiny.
At least three highly qualified legal opinions state that it is substantially flawed. Since it adds to existing definitions the claim of dilution is not unreasonable, especially since the examples extend existing understandings of anti-Semitism to include reference to Israel. The claim of dilution is only controversial for those who want to suppress reasonable criticism of Israel.

Many involved in Middle East affairs, including British Jews, see pressure for the adoption of the IHRA definition as a tool to suppress the BDS movement. That Zionists might campaign to ensure that Jeremy Corbyn does not become Prime Minister is likely given his statement that a British government led by him would recognise Palestine on the pre-1967 borders, strictly in line with international law.

The complainant misrepresents the facts, possibly unintentionally, by implying that in his 2014 Facebook post Stephen was claiming Israel's involvement in the event known as 9/11. In fact Stephen posted a link to an article on another website and asked the question, "Is this antisemitic? If so no doubt I'll be asked to remove it. It raises so many questions" The substance of this issue has been dealt with under the earlier CDM.

In the context that Stephen was responding to a question a truthful answer is not unreasonable. Given the noise that was made by BoD at the time some response to controvert the 'facts' provided in the article – which I read at the time – might have been expected. If untrue why not provide some evidence to show how the data in the article had been falsified, misrepresented or misinterpreted? Given the question Stephen's answer is surely reasonable.

I don't intend to deal with all the historic 'bullet points' merely to point out that attendance at a conference – bullets 1 & 3 – doesn't necessarily imply agreement with everything, or even anything, that is said. Meeting those we disagree with is a primary step in reconciliation – bullet 2. The final 'bullet' states that Stephen 'Has repeatedly promoted the idea that Israel was behind the 9/11 attacks' and supplies 2 references, 8 & 12.

That cannot, in justice, be allowed to pass. The statement is defamatory and not supported by the evidence The article to which Stephen links and from which he quotes states categorically: *'But I've seen no hard evidence to date that 9/11 was a plot by America's far right or by Israel or a giant cover-up. Just, perhaps, the Mother of All Coincidences. In the end, it may just have been 19 angry Arabs and a bumbling Bush administration looking for someone else to blame'.*

BoD should be politely requested to remove this lie from their complaint. Sadly, I doubt that Stephen will receive the support he deserves from his, and surprisingly my, church.

It is pertinent to ask why this complaint at this time. Isn't it 'scraping the barrel'? Isn't the real target Jeremy Corbyn who would be guilty by association with a priest whom he has defended.

And is it not the case that the Board of Deputies is seeking to use a CDM as an equivalent to civil proceedings in British Law, where a criminal prosecution would not be successful because of lack of evidence.

Had Stephen's circumstances been different at the time of the earlier CDM I would have advised him strongly to seek a full judicial process. That, I am certain, would have shown the allegations to be so flimsy as to warrant a letter requesting Mr Arkush to stop wasting valuable time.

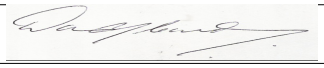
It is my hope and prayer that someone will have the courage to tell the BoD that there is no case to answer. If they disagree let them apply to the police who, it is to be hoped, would tell them to stop wasting police time.

……
.

* I attach, a) copy of my letter to Bishop Christopher dated 31st December 2012 together with comments specific to the 'Israel did it' allegation; b) A brief Appendix that relates specifically to the historic allegations (I assume you have a copy, if not I can supply the 2012 'Evidence' Mr Arkush provided. I'd rather not waste your time).

……
.
……

(Continue on a separate sheet or sheets if necessary. State here how many additional sheets you are attaching:…… Please number all such additional sheets)

	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: 26th November 2018

Appendix

Notes specific to the dated material on 'Evidence in support....'

14/03/2010 Sizer uses a striking metaphor to make a point. The charge of 'insinuation' is subjective and, on the evidence, unsustainable. The text makes clear what the issues are. The issue that the British Jewish Community should be addressing; to their credit many do; is the behaviour of the Israeli military.

09/03/2011 What this actually shows is the obsession with 'hunting down' Israel's critics. 'Harry's Place' draws conclusions which are neither explicit not implicit in Sizer's comment. The conclusions "The Gadaffis are Jews" is a couple of steps beyond any implication of Sizers, and the remaining phrases cannot by any normal logic be extrapolated from Sizers blog.

13/06/2011 The substantive paragraph is the second. Practically every sentence is unsubstantiated assertion, illogical conclusion, or plain nonsense. The "natural and obvious meaning.." is contrarywise. How, for instance does the BoD know what Sizer's "readers will readily understand". I might just as easily make an alternative, unprovable, claim, that 'Sizer's readers will readily understand that he is referring to a minority, unrepresentative, subset of Jews.

Further, 'Zionist' is not a "paraphrase for Jews". I know Jews who are not Zionist; I know Jews who are Zionist but not racist, and I know, sadly, one Jew who is Zionist and racist.

As to the truth of Sizer's statement, I can personally testify that the EDL regard Israel as their template and support what they see as israel's anti-Islam stance. EDL supporters frequently carry Israel's flag at demonstrations.

05/07/2011 That the 'Zionist lobby' in US is extremely powerful is surely unarguable. That Mossad has been involved in assassinations of those regarded as enemies of Israel is also well-known. 'The Palestine Telegraph' according to its own mission statement provides an alternative to the Israel dominated media output. It seeks liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness and welcomes all who seek peace and justice.

04/10/2011 In referring to 'The Ugly Truth' website the BoD inadvertently shows its hand. The masthead is certainly unambiguous but it is aimed at 'Zionism and Jewish extremism..' which, in its context, is understandable.

Middle East Evangelical Concern

Engaging Evangelicals for Peace with Justice

"too long I have had my dwelling among those who hate peace. I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war" Psalm 120. verses 6 and 7

David J Carter, (Director)
97, Evesham Road,
Leicester.
LE3 2BE
david@meec.org.uk
07932182514

Rt. Rev. C.J Hill,
Willow Grange,
Woking Road,
Guildford.
GU4 7QS

Date: 31st December 2012

Dear Bishop Christopher,

I am writing with regard to the complaint made by the Board of Deputies of British Jews against Revd. Dr. Stephen Sizer. In the three years I have known him I have never heard or read a word that could be construed as anti-Semitic. The allegation that Stephen has published anti-Semitic material is extremely serious. Having accessed the complaint and evidence from the BoD website and spent some time evaluating it may I make the following comments.

First, the claim by BoD to be the 'representative organisation of the United Kingdom Jewish Community' would be challenged by, for instance, 'Jewish Voice for Peace', 'Jews for Justice for Palestine' and 'Independent Jewish Voices'. So, their claims must be balanced by other Jewish voices who take a different view.

Second, the complainant has to show that the websites Stephen has linked to are anti-Semitic. On this they clearly fail. It is not sufficient to show that they contain material critical of Israel: criticism of Israel is not anti-Semitic; it has to be demonstrated that the criticism is applied either to all or a large majority of Jews, as Jews.

Third, the complainants must show that the specific articles to which Stephen provided links are both anti-Semitic and obviously untrue. Not only does the 'Evidence' fail in demonstrating this is it is mendacious. For example, its entry for 14th October 2011 (actually 2010) backed by a screenshot on page 7 of the Appendix refers to a post by Stephen on Helen Thomas. The BoD text is:

> "Rev Sizer posted comments on his blog from Helen Thomas, the former White House correspondent forced to retire after telling Jews in Israel to go 'home' to Poland, Germany or America. He prefaced the comments with:
>
> "Helen Thomas is one gutsy 90 year old lady to take on the Israel Lobby."
> And ended them with "Bring it on." "

A comparison between what Helen Thomas actually said and what BoD reports her to have said reveals their true colours. She did not tell "Jews in Israel to go 'home'..." she said, (and it's on Stephen's post, "Tell them to get the hell out of Palestine". (we might object to the language but the sentiment is in line with international law!). To be clear, Thomas is referring to Israel in Palestine, not "Jews in Israel". As to Stephen's end comment, "bring it on" which BoD wants to link with the "go home" comment; in context it seems much more logically associated with Thomas' desire to "work again". Perhaps the BoD could be invited to explain why they have distorted the item to read this way?

Fourth, the complainant has to show that, in making these links and comments Stephen did so from a position of racial hatred. It is not anti-Semitic to criticize Israel, nor is it anti-Semitic to criticize individual Jews, or even to criticize a collective of Jews who represent a particular viewpoint, such as Zionist extremism; if such were the case no comment would be possible on anything involving people!

Should you wish I can provide my own analysis of the 'Evidence' and its 'Appendix'. Frankly, I view this complaint as an attempt to silence a godly man who works for peace with justice in the not-so-holy-land. As Christians we are called to speak out against injustice wherever we see it, and we do so echoing Israel's prophets. That is what Stephen does: as critical of anti-Semitism as of Islamophobia. To their shame many of our forebears forgot or ignored the call of righteousness and they persecuted Jews. That wrong cannot be righted by doing injustice to Palestinians.

What the BoD complaint and evidence demonstrate is that any criticism of Israel is regarded as anti-Semitic. That surely is the kind of idolatry that Israel's prophets spoke against. The Board of Deputies is uncomfortable with hearing truth spoken about Israel's behaviour, and want to limit freedom of speech to exclude criticism of Israel. This cannot and must not be allowed.

I pray that you will reject their complaint.

Yours Sincerely

David J Carter

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: 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

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: Revd Canon David MacInnes

My contact address, including postcode, is:

Pear Tree Cottage
Milcombe
Banbury
OX15 4RS

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

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: davidmacinnes@talktalk.net

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 am writing to support Stephen in the complaint under the Clergy Disciplinary measure that has been brought against him. I am astonished at the fact that this charge has been made when it has been so clear from former investigations that he has done nothing to warrant it.

I suppose that the disturbing thing is the way that the moment a person questions the policies or actions of Zionists, they are accused of being anti-semitic. My grandfather experienced that as Bishop of Jerusalem in the post first world war period when he supported some of the Rabbis who were questioning the philosophy of Zionism. He was immediately branded as anti-semitic. It has been my own experience, on the occasions when I have challenged the biblical interpretation of the Christian Zionists, that there has been an unreasoning and often almost violent reaction, so I have sympathy with the situation in which Stephen finds himself.

I have followed with interest his writings and blogs which are referred to, and have been struck by the graciousness of his debating style and the logic of his arguments – whether you agree with them or not. His consistent rejection of any form of anti-semitism has been abundantly plain, and where he has made mistakes, he has been the first to admit them. There really are no grounds for the accusations made against him.

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: David MacInnes

Dated: 28 November 2018

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: Dr David Ahmed Toorawa

My contact address, including postcode, is: 152 St John's Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP1 1NR

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

**My telephone number is: +44 1442 400331

**My e-mail address is: datdoc72@gmail.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 Revd. Stephen Sizer for circa twenty years. Our common concerns have led us to work together at various times in committee with various organisations which have sought to: - Highlight the plight of the Palestinian people; Argue cogently against the theology which places the "land" at the centre of the Christian faith rather than the teachings of Jesus Christ; Emphasise the importance of and decline of Palestinian Christians within the area we know as Israel- Palestine.

It is clear that Stephen has worked alongside people of other faiths, both Muslim & Jew in pursuit of human rights.

It is also clear to me that the literature and other materials read & viewed by me entirely support what I have just declared.

At no point have I heard, seen or read anything which leads me to believe that Rev. Dr Sizer is anything but a good Christian who stands up for what he believes, and for the Rights of the dispossessed and marginalised.

None of this life's work makes him an anti-semite.

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:
David Toorawa

Dated:
28th November 2018

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: Diana Neslen

My contact address, including postcode, is:

232 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, IG14UT

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

**My telephone number is: 020 85546112

**My e-mail address is: deeneslen@gmail.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.*

In 2012 I had occasion to support the Reverend Stephen Sizer who was under attack for 'antisemitism'. It was clear to me then as it is now that the Revered Sizer is no antisemite. In fact he is a strong antiracist who challenges oppression wherever he finds it.

I have no reason to change the views that I set out in 2012. In fact I am dismayed that the Board of Deputies has dredged this tired canard up again and are trying heartlessly to destroy Stephen's livelihood.

The Board of Deputies does not speak for all Jews and it should be noted that in their unceasing advocacy for Israel they have encouraged many Jews to distance themselves from their organisation.

I have now read the two added complaints that Ms Van Zyl has made about the Reverend Sizer and can find nothing antisemitic in them. Israel is a state and must make its own arguments in defence of its egregious actions. It does no one any good for Israel and its supporters to defend themselves by abusing the very important issue of antisemitism which all of us recognise is sadly on the rise again.

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: Diana Neslen

Dated: 26 November 2018

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: **Revd Dr Donald Wagner**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

1037 Dewey Avenue
Evanston
Illinois 60202
USA

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

**My telephone number is: +1 847 507 0191

**My e-mail address is: dwag42@gmail.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.*

Grace and peace to you and may the light of Advent guide us in overcoming the darkness. The Middle East is often clouded by darkness, particularly in the regions under Israeli occupation that yearn for justice and peace.

I am writing in support of my colleague Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer, who is a respected voice for the poor and challenges injustice across the Middle East. I have known and worked with Stephen for nearly 20 years and have the utmost respect for his writing, pastoral ministry, and his speaking around the globe on behalf of the victims of persecution and human rights violations.

I was one of examiners for his doctoral thesis on Christian Zionism and was proud to provide overwhelming approval for Stephen to receive his doctorate.

His critique of Israel's policies vs. Palestinians is specific and legitimate, and of course is never welcomed by those who strive to cover-up the abuses of power.

Stephen's voice must be safe-guarded and encouraged. His challenges are consistent with those levelled by the pre-eminent Israeli human rights organization "B'Tselem," which of course translates as "in the image of", the image of God that we are called to honour and safeguard in all human beings.

Dr. Sizer is within this tradition. I sincerely hope that you will support his mission and ministry.

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: Donald Wager

Dated: 24 November 2018

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: Reverend Deacon Dr Duncan Macpherson,
My contact address, including postcode, is:
16 Ormond Drive,
Hampton,
Middlesex,
TW122TN

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

**My telephone number is: 0044(0) 208 274 0210

**My e-mail address is: Duncan@deaconduncan.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 am a Roman Catholic Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Westminster and a retired academic who has served as a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Principal Lecturer in Theology and Religious Studies at Saint Mary's University (formerly Saint Mary's University College), Twickenham, for 33 years, and subsequently as a Senior Research Fellow at University of Wales Lampeter and again as a Visiting Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

In 1982, I became a founder member of the Living Stones of the Holy Land Trust, a registered ecumenical charity set up to promote links between Christians in Britain and Christians in the Holy Land and neighbouring countries. Patrons of this charity have included, three Anglican Bishops, three Roman Catholic Cardinals, an Anglican Archbishop of York, two Latin Patriarchs, one Greek Catholic Patriarch, two Greek Orthodox bishops and a President of the Lutheran World Federation.

My work for Living Stones and involvement in leading Holy Land Pilgrimages soon brought me into contact with Dr. Sizer, whose academic expertise and strong advocacy of human rights provided very valuable support to the development of the charity and its work.

I am proud to have worked with Dr. Sizer over more than more than four decades. I know him well, and I find the accusation of anti-Semitism against him to be risible.

He is utterly opposed to racism or sectarianism of any kind, and I believe that he is yet one more victim of a politically motivated campaign to conflate criticism of Israel or of Zionist ideology with hatred or negative prejudice against Jews.

I also know that he has the support of a number of Jewish rabbis, academics and Jewish human rights campaigners who share his commendable concern for the plight of the Palestinian people.

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: Duncan Macpherson

Dated: 28.11.18

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: **Canon Garth Hewitt**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

1 De Walden Mews
Eastbourne
BN20 7 QU

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

My telephone number is: 07767 794931

My e-mail address is: garth@amostrust.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.*

Dear Bishop Tim,

Warmest greetings.

I wanted to write to you about Stephen Sizer as I gathered complaints have been made about him raising the issue of anti-Semitism. This happened once before and after going through a CDM it was agreed that he was not anti-Semitic. I'm sorry to see the issue raised again as it seems to be an attempt to undermine his ministry. Obviously if he was anti-Semitic that would not be acceptable, but having worked with Stephen in different ways for years I have not seen this to be the case.

I have known Stephen since he was at University, and took him on one of his early visits to the Holy Land when we were both on the staff of St Saviour's in Guildford. Since then as you know he has become recognised as an expert on Christian pilgrimage in the Holy Land and also Christian Zionism. Stephen's motivation is working for peace and strangely those who are truly dedicated to a peace for both communities, ie Israeli and Palestinian, can get criticised by those who only want one viewpoint to be represented. I am glad to say that Stephen is committed to international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and human rights. He is committed to a way forward that would bring equality and dignity to both communities.

In the end Stephen is a gentle but firm peacemaker, who lives out the Biblical mandate that all are made in the image of God, and I have not seen anything that reflects anti-Semitism. He has worked with Jewish peace activists and Rabbis, and has won their respect and also the respect of the Muslim community. I believe he has been a witness to the Christian values of peacemaking.

As you may be aware in the final days of Stephen's time in the Guildford Diocese strict restrictions were put on him in terms of what he could do and where he could go. I went and chatted with Bishop Andrew about this as I was concerned that an aspect of Stephen's ministry was being silenced. I then became a Trustee of Stephen's Trust for a couple of years in order to help restore his ministry. It is a ministry that happens all over the world particularly in Africa and I'm glad to see that his gifts are being fully used again.

It is a very difficult time for him with Joanne's cancer diagnosis – I think this is a time for the church to rally round them in support. He has given his life to the ministry of the church and particularly following in the footsteps of Jesus in terms of sharing the gospel and working for equality, peace and justice. I think this is the time to encourage him and his work with Peacemaker Trust – a work which is at a very significant stage.

I am the Founder of the Amos Trust, and our Director, Rev Chris Rose, is with our partners in South Africa just now, so he has asked me to respond on behalf of Amos. I enclose some words that he put in his letter to Bishop Christopher Hill the last time this issue was raised:

"I am writing on behalf of Amos Trust to voice our concern over the accusations made against Stephen Sizer of anti-Semitism. As you know, Amos Trust is a small creative Christian human rights organisation that was named after the call of the prophet Amos: 'Let justice flow like rivers and righteousness like a never ending stream'.
We have worked closely with Stephen for many years. I have heard him speak on numerous occasions and read his written works and I have no doubt that Stephen is driven by a commitment to justice, peace, non-violence and above all reconciliation.
He is motivated by the cry of Palestinian Christians for justice and solidarity, in the sure belief that this will also provide the best hope for security and peace for Israelis.
The allegations against him are not only unfounded but are a deliberate attempt to try to prevent church leaders from speaking out in a prophetic manner on the situation facing Palestinians.
While it is important to examine such accusations and to ascertain whether there is any validity to them, it is also important to recognise the motivation that lies behind them".

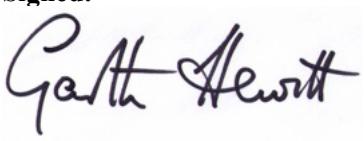
I hope these comments from myself and Chris are helpful in terms of how to address the current situation.

With best wishes.

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

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: Dr. Gary M. Burge

My contact address, including postcode, is: Dept. of Theology, Calvin Seminary, 3233 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546, United States

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

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: gary.burge@calvinseminary.edu

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.*

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Stephen Sizer has supplied to me details of the complaint lodged against him. He has also supplied the original complaint. With this in hand, I also can draw from my many years of working with Stephen (perhaps 25 years) to say that I find the complaint remarkable and difficult to believe. But also I find them predictable – which I will explain below.

I am a professor theology at Calvin Theological Seminary and ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA). I have also had extensive experience in this volatile theological and political debate surrounding Israel and Zionism. Dr. Sizer is in fact an international authority on Christian Zionism and this has not only led to his important academic contributions, but this has made him highly visible to those who promote Zionism as a matter of orthodox Christian belief. He has also been public about his criticism of Israel's domestic policies with regard to Palestinians living in the country.

All of this together has made Dr. Sizer's career a flashpoint for criticism. One of the unusual features of this topic is that unlike other theological disagreements, this subject has many passionate though untrained laity who promote Christian Zionism and when they encounter serious historical analysis or incisive political commentary, they do not engage the author of these views but instead try to sabotage or discredit them. In my own research on this debate, I have found it remarkable and astonishing how volatile these critics can be. This complaint is simply one more example.

The present set of complaints therefore fit into a pattern that many of us have seen countless times. Dr. Sizer is saying nothing that has not been said before by both Jews and Christians. And his writing is not anti-Semitic. Simply put, public criticism of Israel is not a form of anti-Judaism. It is simply a form of political discourse that can be heard about any country today. But for some, his success at winning an audience has made his views intolerable. This is unfortunate and I am confident that cooler heads in the Church of England will see such criticisms for what they are.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Burge, Ph.D.
Calvin Theological Seminary
Grand Rapids, MI USA

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: 29 Nov 2018

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.

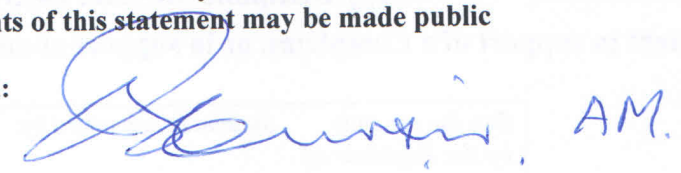
Yes, at times Stephen was critical of Israel, in exactly the same way many of his listeners and myself would be, but never could any of this criticism be construed as anti-Semitic or Stephen described as a 'fellow traveller of terrorists'. To agree to this caricature would be to deny normal freedom of 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

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: 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

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: **Professor Ilan Pappe**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

Dartington Hall
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 6EL

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

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: I.Pappe@exeter.ac.uk

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 was shocked to read the very recent allegations made against Revd. Dr Stephen Sizer – a recent wave in a never ending campaign to try and silence a human Christian voice. As someone who is a victim of a similar campaign, indeed by the very same people, I am only too familiar with the potential damage such a sinister enterprise can cause in the long run.

I have read all of Stephen's works and participated with him in numerous panels and seminars. Quite often in churches and community centres all over the country. The audience was always mixed: people of all religions and persuasions were present on such occasions. If there was a dividing line it was between the humane, peaceful and inclusive message of Stephen and those who sought to challenge him in the name of religious, national or ethnic eccentricity and false purity.

There was not a hint of anti-Semitism in anything Stephen wrote or spoke about. On the contrary, the message was always clear – a concern that some of Israel's policies and ideologies can create a misguided association of Judaism with dispossession, colonisation and discrimination. This is why there are always many Jews, like myself, who work in close association and collaboration with Stephen for the sake of a universal goal of bringing peace and justice to Israel and Palestine. This is also why many progressive Jews read and rely on Stephen's scholarly work and come in great numbers to attend his talks.

I hope this thuggish attempt to silence a voice of reason and justice, which brings credit and confidence in what Church leaders in this country can do for global peace, will be brushed aside, as it should be, as malicious and deplorable.

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: Ilan Pappe

Dated: 24 November 2018

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: Ismail Patel

My contact address, including postcode, is:
11 Knighton Rise Leicester. LE2 2RF.

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

**My telephone number is: 07711823524

**My e-mail address is: ss14iap@leeds.ac.uk

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.*

The accusation of discrimination and xenophobia are serious and need to be investigated meticulously. The suffering of Jews in Europe at the hands of anti-Semites and the Holocaust means every complaint of anti-Semitism requires to be dealt with equal measure. Having known Rev Dr Stephen Sizer for over twenty years I was shocked at the allegations but as stated above it was necessary to investigate not only the message but the content of the messenger and the sources.

To come to a conclusion on the accusation without taking into account these would be a dereliction of duty and travesty of justice. To the best my knowledge Rev Dr Sizer has been critical of Israeli Policies towards Palestinians and its occupation. However, to conflate this as anti-Semitic is to supersede Israeli government policies over Jewishness.

Any accusation has to be clearly demonstrated and having worked, read and heard Rev Dr Sizer's I believe there will be a lack of such evidence being produced.

Rev Dr Sizer has approached the issue of Israel-Palestine with the sensitivity it requires and has been able to articulate his position free of polemics that is in public domain. It is possible this may not be acceptable to some but to the best my knowledge is has free of malicious and works to end violence for a peaceful Holy Land. In all my encounters Dr Sizer's message has been from the teachings of Jesus (pbuh), one of peace and brotherhood. He emphasises diplomacy over violence and reconciliation and forgiveness over hatred.

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:

Ismail Patel

Ismail Patel Bsc, MBCO, MA

Dated: 28 November 2018

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: Jeremy Michael MOODEY

My contact address, including postcode, is:
14 Chartridge Lane, Chesham, Bucks HP5 2JJ

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

**My telephone number is: 07712 777371

**My e-mail address is: jeremy.moodey@gmail.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 am writing in support of Revd Dr Stephen Sizer, whom I have known for many years and whom I count as a good friend. I hope very much that he will be allowed to keep his Permission to Officiate.

In terms of personal character, I have no doubt that Stephen is not antisemitic and that the claims of the Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD) are, as they were in the last CDM in 2014-15 (which incidentally was not found in the BoD's favour), ill-conceived.

It is unclear why the BoD are raising concerns about Stephen's behaviour prior to his retirement, since these have already been dealt with. So the present case rests on Stephen's behaviour since his retirement from full-time stipendiary ministry at Easter 2017, and in particular three incidents:

- **Good Friday 2018 interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC): definition of antisemitism.** Notwithstanding the decision of CofE bishops to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, it remains the case that it is not antisemitic (or a reason to entertain a CDM) to

challenge Zionism as a political philosophy or to question why anti-Zionism should be adduced as evidence of antisemitism. Many Jews themselves oppose Zionism. The debate about the IHRA definition was lively and very much in line with our country's tradition of free speech. Stephen's right to free speech on this matter should therefore be respected.

- **Good Friday 2018 interview with the ABC: Israeli involvement in 9/11.** If Stephen's comments to ABC (that no-one has contradicted the facts contained in the 2014 Wikispooks article '9/11 Israel did it') are as reported, then I agree they are, with the benefit of hindsight, ill-judged. But I don't believe there was any antisemitic intent, and establishing intent is key to any claim of antisemitism. We must in particular take at face value Stephen's repeated assertions that he does not believe Israel was behind 9/11. It may also be the case that the individual facts contained in the Wikispooks article have never been contradicted (which is the point that Stephen was making). But the thrust of the article is unquestionably antisemitic, in promoting a 'Zionist conspiracy' trope. I am sure Stephen did not intend to endorse this article's antisemitic tone, and that in this sense his quoted comments to ABC have been taken out of context and therefore misunderstood.

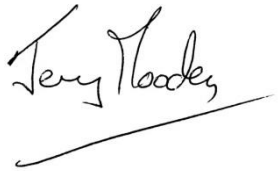
- **August 2018 Facebook post.** This relates to Stephen's link to a Middle East Eye article entitled 'Is Israel's hidden hand behind the attacks on Jeremy Corbyn'. I know the author of the article, Jonathan Cook, and he is a reputable journalist based in Nazareth who has never been accused of antisemitism. Indeed, if he had been so accused, he would not be allowed (as a British citizen) to remain in Israel. The debate about Israeli government involvement in UK politics has been well documented, with documentaries by the Channel 4 *Despatches* programme (presented by reputable journalist Peter Oborne) and by Al-Jazeera. There is nothing antisemitic about highlighting Israeli involvement in UK politics, any more than debating Russian involvement is Slavophobic.

For these reasons, I believe the BoD's CDM complaint should be rejected.

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: 26 November 2018

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: The Right Revd John Alexander Ellison

My contact address, including postcode, is:

The Furrow,
Evingar Rd.
Whitchurch, Hants.
RG28 7EU

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

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: jyjellison@btinternet.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.*

At times I have agreed with Stephen, at times not, but he has always helped me to think more clearly about complex issues, and I have never doubted his Christian integrity. And I shall always be grateful for the support we received from Stephen in South America days, as well as more recently as we have sought to adapt back to contemporary Britain.

I find it extraordinary therefore, that Stephen is being called to account yet again by the Board of Deputies. There is, to my mind, a huge difference between being critical of a particular government and its policies and a deep concern, even love of the nation over which that government exercises authority.

For many years, as you know, we lived under successive military dictatorships both in Argentina and Paraguay and were sometimes in conflict with those who ruled over us. It wasn't always comfortable, especially during the Falklands war and under Stroessner in Paraguay.

Yet I was never in any doubt that those whose policies we disagreed with, understood that our love and respect for the Argentine nation, and the Paraguayan nation was genuine and heartfelt.

You will see the parallels I am making and the implications; being critical of a government, (more so when it is seeking to be democratic), and loving the people it represents, are by no means incompatible.

So I am shocked that this is happening all over again, and particularly concerned about the huge stress levels being placed on Stephen and Joanna.

Our love and prayers are with you.
As always in Christ,
+John.

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: + John Ellison

Dated: 29 November 2018

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: Revd. Canon John Frank Salter

My contact address, including postcode, is:

7, Aldershot Road,
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 8AE

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

**My telephone number is: 01483 511165

**My e-mail address is: johnsalter37@gmail.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:

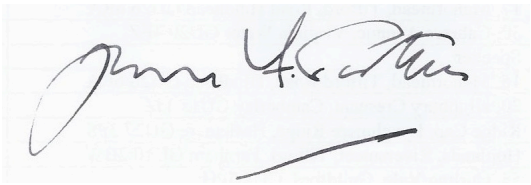
This is a general message in support of Dr. Sizer's response to the alleged charge of anti-semitism and of his request for the complaint against him to be rejected. He has never to my knowledge and in my experience shown anything but complete and wholehearted support for the Jewish people and this is constantly reiterated in his published writings and his contributions to social media. There is no substance to the allegations, as has been proved to be the case on previous occasions, and his commitment to a peaceful solution in the Middle East and to the equal value and human dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians is well documented.

*anYou 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 read in full the allegations made by Ms Marie van der Zyl in her complaint against The Revd. Dr. Stephen Sizer and, where possible, the backgound material offered in support of it. I am a clergy colleague who has known Dr. Sizer for well over 30 years, read all of his published writings, heard him speak on matters relating to the Middle East and supported him in his commitment to fostering peace, justice and reconciliation around the world. I have also been a regular visitor to Israel for over fifty years.

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: 28th November, 2018

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: **Rev John Woodger**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

22 Clock Tower Court
Park Avenue
Bexhill on Sea
TN39 3HP

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

**My telephone number is: 01424 552953

**My e-mail address is: woodger@talktalk.net

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 been appalled to read of accusations of anti-Semitism being levelled against Stephen Sizer by the British Board of Deputies. I have known, and worked with Stephen on pilgrimages and issues relating to Israel/Palestine for over 30 years, and am fully convinced that there is not an ounce of anti-Semitism in him.

Stephen is a scholar, speaker and author on the issue of Israel/Palestine and related subjects such as political Zionism. He has done a great service to inform Christians from a Biblical perspective, and has been invited to address audiences that few Christians would even consider going to. He has made enemies in the process, but that always happens in pursuit of truth.

Stephen is caught in the trap of speaking against Israel, and this of course is anathema to both Jewish and Christian Zionists, who equate criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. You and I know that that is a false equation, and mere ignorance. It's quite simple, you can't speak against Israel and get away with it. Stephen has been bold enough to do it - and thank God for that!

I have heard Stephen speaking on many occasions, as well as discussions with Jews and Zionists. He is always very gracious towards his opponents and has a clear understanding of their point of view - he is never aggressive. I trust you have had the opportunity to see his contribution to Channel 4's '4 Thought - Are Jews still persecuted in Britain today?

I hope you will continue to support Stephen, not only because his accusers are wrong, but because he has been a faithful parish priest over many years and now, in retirement, has permission to officiate in your Diocese. Stephen does not deserve this treatment. In no way is he anti-Semitic, and you must know that.

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: *John Woodger*

Dated: 24 November 2018

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: Jozef M Strengholt

My contact address, including postcode, is: Livingstonelaan 1068, 3526JR Utrecht, The Netherlands

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

**My telephone number is: +31-6-41021346

**My e-mail address is: jos@strengholt.info

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 had the honor to have Rev Stephen Sizer visit me 3 times in Egypt for teaching and preaching in the church I was pastoring (Anglican Church in Heliopolis). He would then also stay in my home for 4-5 days.

He always spoke on matters related to Biblical interpretation and matters related to Palestinian national rights etc.

Never ever have I heard him say things that could be considered antisemitic. Not in public meetings and not in private talks. Even though, in a context with Arab Christians, that would probably have been reveived warmly.

Rev Sizer never spoke about "Jews" in general; he never made negative statements about Jews. The only thing I heard him being critical of, was the politics of the government of Israel.

I personally am very sad and outspoken against the political course of the United Kingdom and its Brexit. But I cannot conceive that anyone would ever accuse me of being racist and "anti-British". Likewise, I do not see anything antisemitic in the critique that Rev Sizer has of Israel's policies.

With kind regards

Rev Dr Jos M. Strengholt
Priest in The Netherlands

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: 28 November 2018

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: **Rev. Dr. Manfred Waldemar Kohl**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

5022 Hwy 329 Blandfore
RR 1
Hubbards, NS
Canada B0J 1T0

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

My telephone number is: **+1 902 228 2288

My e-mail address is: **manfred@overseas.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.*

Permit me to introduce myself. I have served for the last twenty years with Overseas Council, an organization that helps theological seminaries and universities around the world. Before that I served with World Vision International for twenty years as one of the international vice-presidents living in Africa and Europe. I presently live in Nova Scotia, Canada, but I continue to travel to many parts of the world with Overseas Council.

I have seen correspondence about the accusations made against a colleague and friend of mine, the Reverend Dr. Stephen Sizer.

I have travelled with Dr. Sizer. I have spoken at significant conferences at which he has spoken, and I have published some articles to which he has made some important contributions. I have never heard Dr. Sizer make any statements that could be labeled anti-Semitic.

In fact, I recall numerous occasions when he spoke very positively about the Jews as the "people of God". His presentations and his theology are devoid of any anti-Semitic thoughts or ideas whatsoever. I am more than willing to testify to these facts.

If you need or if it is appropriate, I can elaborate in more detail.

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

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

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 Marie van der Zyl

Against Revd Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: Professor Mary Grey

My contact address, including postcode, is:

West Mill
Fullerton Road
Wherwell
Hampshire
SP11 7JS

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

**My telephone number is: 01264 860159

**My e-mail address is: m.grey@surfwise.co.uk

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 write to defend Revd Stephen Sizer from the charge of anti-Semitism and first want to explain my own position.

Of course it is tragic that this issue is being aired at a time when Europe grieves over the deaths of the Jewish children and their Rabbi-father in Toulouse.

For many years I belonged to CCJ – and even ICCJ. I was a member of the ICCJ Theology committee and went to some of their conferences. I am a good friend of Rabbi Dan Cohn Sherbok – we wrote a book together in 2005- "Pursuing the dream – a Jewish-Christian conversation". Gradually I realised that, whereas I still belong to CCJ, I could not stand aside from Palestinian suffering.

I'm now a patron of Friends of Sabeel UK – and that is how I met Revd Stephen Sizer. Sabeel works for the liberation of Palestinian Christians. I've worked with them for over 10 years and have never heard an anti-Semitic remark: indeed the Revd Naim Ateek, Sabeel's founder, stresses the need to make peace with justice-seeking Israelis. Every Sabeel conference I attend gathers together peace-seeking groups of Israelis.

And that is also the motivation of Stephen Sizer. Like many of us, he runs the danger that, in criticising the Israeli occupation of the west Bank as unjust, as I do, he will be called anti-Semitic. As I understand, the cartoon at the origin of this controversy was anti-Semitic, and once Revd Sizer realized the seriousness of the error of linking his Facebook entry with the offending website, he did remove it and wrote to the Jewish Chronicle on 4 January.

At all the meetings I have attended where he has been present, or giving a lecture, I have never heard an anti-Judaistic/anti-Semitic statement. Indeed I have heard him criticise violence on both sides. Like all of us who work for peace, Stephen Sizer walks the dangerous tightrope that in criticising the unjust actions of the Zionist government, (actions which have frequently been condemned by the United Nations) he will be called anti Semitic. Such is his commitment to justice and peace that he is willing to walk this tightrope. But there is a question as to how long a person can endure such persecution. I would like to recall to you Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun, (a reform Jewish Journal) who lives in San Francisco. He similarly takes a strong stance against the Israeli occupation –and pays the price that his house is frequently vandalised. Stephen's case is similar. There are many people who cannot envisage the case on both sides of the divide.

Rather than make Rev Stephen Sizer suffer further, should we not, Jews and Christians join together in a struggle for truth and justice – and bring an end to this oppressive state of affairs while affirming the need for Jews and Christians, Israelis and Palestinians, to live together in peace?

I am happy to discuss these issues further – or even to come to Guildford to do so.

Yours in hope of peace and reconciliation,

Mary Grey

*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: *Mary Grey*

Dated: 25 November 2018

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: Rt Revd Michael Laurence Langrish

My contact address, including postcode, is:

39, The Meadows, Walberton, Arundel BN18 0PB

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

**My telephone number is: 01243 551704

**My e-mail address is: langrishm@btinternet.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 am deeply shocked by this further attempt by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to accuse The Revd Dr Stephen Sixer of anti-Semitic, statements, behaviour and beliefs. From my knowledge of, and acquaintance with, Dr Sizer over twenty years I have never known him to express a single anti semiotic view or sentiment. He has certainly very carefully critiqued particular expressions of political and religious Zionism and the impact of these, particularly in the context of the Middle East, where he has also shown himself to be aware of, and sensitive to, the negative how these have also affected ancient Jewish communities as well as others. He has also exercised the right of any citizen in a democracy to be critical of the actions of the current government of another country when these have compromised prospects for justice and peace. This he has done both courageously and responsibly in his advocacy for peace and justice in the Middle East. None of this constitutes anti-Semitism, something that I have frequently heard him explicitly condemn, along with other forms of racial and religious discrimination.

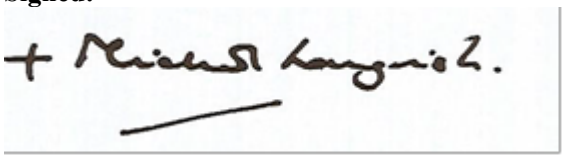
I am horrified that this attempt to make such a charge stick is supported by evidence already considered at the time of an earlier complaint brought under CDM by the Board. This material was carefully considered at the time and taken into account when the then Bishop of Guildford reached his conclusions. There can be no case for reconsidering the same material now. I am also both shocked and saddened that despite the undertaking given during the earlier reconciliation process that should they have further concerns, the Board of Deputies would raise these directly with Dr Sizer, in a spirit of dialogue and a search for mutual understanding, this they have failed to do. It is difficult not to feel that this latest action itself constitutes harassment and an attempt to close down fair comment on matters of vital importance in the context of today's Middle East, and the broader global geopolitical scene.

My experience of Stephen is of a godly, prayerful minister of the gospel, a faithful teacher and pastor of God's people, who seeks only to serve to the best of the ability his Lord, His Church and His Kingdom. This he has done as a loyal minister in the Church of England for the past 38 years. The suggestion by the complainant that Dr Sizer was forced to resign from the parish of Virginia Water because of his writing and speaking has no basis in fact. As a member of the International Board of Reference of the Peacemaker Trust I can testify to the fact that conversation had been going on with Stephen Sizer over a considerable period of time about the possibility of his leaving parish ministry to concentrate fully on the work that now forms the purpose of the Trust. The Vision of the Trust is of a world reconciled to God and where its people are at peace with one another. Those who support it and Dr Sizer's work aspire to be catalysts for peace-making, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed or reconciliation is needed. In the words of the prophet Micah - "They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Micah 4:3)
This sums up not merely the aim of his work, but the character of the man.

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: 29th November 2018

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 Marie van der Zyl

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

Against Revd Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: Canon Dr Mike Butterworth

My contact address, including postcode, is:

3 Horseshoe Close
Cheddington
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 0SB

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

**My telephone number is: 01296 661903

**My e-mail address is: mikebutterworth@waitrose.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 Stephen Sizer since at least January 1996 when we first discussed his undertaking a thesis for a Master's Degree leading to a Doctorate. This was continued, after I moved from Oak Hill College, under the supervision of Dr Martin Davie and then Dr Alan Storkey.

I was Academic Registrar and lecturer in Old Testament and Hebrew at the college, which was accredited by Middlesex University, and also a fairly regular attender at Southgate Progressive Synagogue for about 17 years. I preached there during their 50th year celebrations and attended several study lunches. When I later became Principal of *St Albans and Oxford Ministry Course* I facilitated a module in which leaders in religions other than Christianity came to speak, and for which the assessment required students to dialogue with a member of another religion and produce a reflection. It is my view that this was one of the most effective exercises for developing inter-religious understanding.

I believe that I am sensitive to the way that what is *not* said can give a wrong impression, and I read books about Zionism and anti-Zionism with an awareness of how this might come across to friends in the Southgate Progressive Synagogue and in CCJ. I have occasionally written to Stephen to suggest that he might be thought to be too pro-Palestinian and have always been reassured by his response .Even in these cases, with writings taken out of context, it would be impossible to build a genuine case for antisemitism.

Stephen is careful to observe and to point out that Zionism is not identical with Judaism. He has been consistently critical of 'Christian Zionism' and has argued that it is incompatible with biblical teaching. At no time have I seen any evidence of antisemitism – quite the opposite. He desires the wellbeing of Jewish people everywhere - and also of Palestinians and others – and seeks to offer criticism that is fair and constructive.

I have met with Stephen many times, initially in discussion his research, but also since that time in reading his writings, both published and private, and in personal conversation. He has been passionately concerned for mutual understanding and reconciliation between religious communities and that is why he set up *Peacemakers* – and why, despite my advancing years, I was happy to be a Trustee.

I have read other complaints against Stephen in the past, including one by Geoffrey Alderman, a member of the academic officers of Middlesex University, who wrote critical piece against Stephen's thesis (incidentally misspelling 'Sizer' throughout) with the aim of rescinding the PhD.

I have read the Complaint against Stephen and find its allegations literally unbelievable. The vindictive tone of the accusation, the lack of credible evidence, the drawing of illogical conclusions from ambiguous situations, the dredging up of old material dealt with long since – all these suggest that this is a vicious reaction to fair criticism.

Stephen Sizer is a true friend to Jews and the nation of Israel.

Yours sincerely

Mike Butterworth

Canon Dr; formerly Academic Registrar of Oak Hill College.

I believe the facts in my statement to be true. I am aware that the contents of this statement may be made public

Signed: Mike Butterworth (emailed)
Dated: 24 November 2018

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: **Miranda Pinch**

My contact address, including postcode, is:
7 Down gate, Alresford, Hampshire. SO24 9JB

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

My telephone number is: **07538999864

My e-mail address is: **miranda.pinch@gmail.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:

1. I have known Stephen for many years through our human rights work. Over the years we have both worked with and alongside UK Jewish groups as well as Israeli Jewish human rights activists. I have never heard anything from Stephen that could be considered in any way anti-Semitic. On the contrary I know him as someone who works tirelessly for human rights and international law, and as an Anglican priest his words, written and spoken, have always been in line with Christian teachings of love and inclusivity.

2. The Board of Deputies does not represent the Jewish community in the UK. The Jewish community, like the Christian community, is very diverse with a broad range of views. There are many within the Jewish Diaspora who utterly condemn the actions of the State of Israel and are appalled by the mendacious intimidation and harassment by some parts of the Jewish community, including the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Chronicle, who are attempting to discredit those who stand up for human rights and international law for all within Israel and Palestine; Jew, Muslim and Christian alike.

My mother was a holocaust survivor herself and it has not prevented accusations of Holocaust denial against me. I have also fallen foul of publishing a perfectly acceptable article from, what was deemed by some, to be a disreputable source. Taking such accusations to their logical conclusion, given that most publications have contained views contrary to today's very sensitive perspectives, it is difficult to avoid those that could not fall foul of the Board of Deputies had they a mind to trawl through them. In fact I used that argument in my defence in an exchange with the Jewish Chronicle a few years ago and thankfully escaped with an only slightly damaging on line article about me.

3. The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is problematic, especially given the examples accepted as part of it, which many organisations have accepted without caveats. The British Parliament's Home Affairs Select Committee attached these caveats to its own 2016 report on anti-Semitism in order to protect free speech and legitimate criticism of Israel.
"It is not anti-Semitic to criticise the Government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.
It is not anti-Semitic to hold the Israeli Government to the same standards as other liberal democracies, or to take a particular interest in the Israeli Government's policies or actions, without evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent."

I am aware that a number of people, including myself, have been accused of anti-Semitism based on the perception of others. If perception alone is the criteria for guilt then there can no longer be free speech or proper debate about any subject that creates strong emotions and perspectives. And further, it is the death knell to democracy.

4. Much of the complaint against Stephen is based on guilt by association. Any panel or conference involves debate. Real debate is impossible without a variety of opinions being expressed. To avoid any platform with someone who has a disagreeable perspective is to close down all such debate.

Most parliamentarians prefer diplomacy to conflict. Diplomacy entails engaging with people with whom they disagree. It would be strange if most politicians had not shared a meeting, venue, discussion, conference or dinner with those labelled despots, terrorists or law breakers on various occasions. Taking this into the Christian realm. Jesus was criticised for mixing with those deemed by others to be beyond the pale. We cannot soften or even convert the views of others without active engagement.

5. Finally the orchestrated campaign against Stephen Sizer is not becoming of any person or institution that upholds democracy, free speech, human rights and international law. Such harassment and intimidation of an individual surely runs counter to the very values that this country and the Church holds dear.

*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: 27/11/15

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: The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis

My contact address, including postcode, is:

5 Michel Lutfallah Street, Zamalek, Cairo 11211

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

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: bishopmouneer@gmail.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.*

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am encouraged to write and share my heart with you because I know your graciousness, fairness and great pastoral heart so I am writing to you in support of my friend Revd Dr Stephen Sizer to express my concern that the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) complaint brought against him has not yet been resolved. I understand that this complaint, brought by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has been hanging over Stephen for almost a year. This has undoubtedly caused him considerable stress, especially given the serious nature of the complaint, and he has also been obliged to cover legal fees running to several thousands of pounds. Justice would surely demand that this complaint is dealt with speedily and is not allowed to drag on any longer. Stephen shared with me that you have been pastorally very supportive of him.

I met Stephen in Egypt on several occasions. When I have heard him talk or translated for him on the subject of Christian Zionism he has always spoken with great Biblical insight and sensitivity on this important but controversial topic. Indeed, we are pleased to have been able to publish his books in Arabic through our Anglican Publishing House and make them more widely available in the Middle East.

I am quite clear in my own mind that Stephen is not anti-Semitic, nor has he said or written anything that could possibly be construed to be anti-Semitic. Thus the central thrust of the Board of Deputies' complaint – that Stephen has made anti-Semitic statements and/or republished the anti-Semitic sentiment of others – simply does not stand up to scrutiny.

I would appeal to you to dismiss the CDM complaint, which from my perspective – and indeed the perspective of many others - has no basis whatsoever. This will allow Stephen to concentrate on his ministry, including his prophetic writings and balanced teaching on Christian Zionism and the biblical call to justice, peace and reconciliation, which we all work for in the Anglican Communion.

Please know that this letter comes with my heartfelt prayers that you will act wisely and choose the course of justice.

May the Lord bless you!

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: + Mouneer Egypt

The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis

Bishop of Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa President Bishop of the Episcopal / Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Dated: 26 November 2018

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: **Revd Philip Hill**

My contact address, including postcode, is:
12, Ffynone Drive,
Uplands,
Swansea,
SA1 6DD

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

**My telephone number is: 07400743164

**My e-mail address is: revphilhill@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.*

I have been thinking that I should write to express to you my support for Stephen Sizer as you weigh the issues surrounding his stance with regard to Israel and the Palestinian Territories. If you wish to check my credentials, I am known both to bps. John Gladwin and June Osborne - who had better speak well of me or expect the leakage of a few tales of their youth!

Now retired, I have been a Baptist minister since 1971 and have played senior roles in Baptist and evangelical life for many years before and after taking up my appointment in Israel 2008-2014. This itself arose from my pioneering of British Baptist support for the Arab Baptist community in Israel from around 2000 onwards. The seminary was founded in 2007 by the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel as a resource for the whole evangelical community in Israel, and includes on its staff both Arab and Messianic teachers as well as expatriates like myself. It is this 'middle ground' position from within the Arab Christian and Messianic communities that I believe enables me to offer you a worthwhile additional perspective.

There are times when I think Stephen goes too far in sympathy with some Arab viewpoints and not far enough in favour of some Israeli government policies. However, I have never doubted that he is a man of high integrity, profound Christian and biblical faithfulness, a lover of truth as he genuinely sees it, as much as he is a man of great grace and humility to all, both Jew and Arab (and I have personal knowledge of his relationships in Israel with both). Criticize his views, by all means - but I can tell you he is a better man than most I have met in forty years of evangelical ministry.

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: Revd. Philip D. Hill, BA, MPhil,

Dated: 23 November 2018

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: **Right Rev. Riah Abo El Asal**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

PO Box 1007
17110 Nazareth Illit
Israel

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

**My telephone number is: +972 (0) 4656 2726

**My e-mail address is: bp.riah@gmail.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.*

Salaam and grace from our Lord Jesus Christ, and every blessing for a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

I write to you today in regard to the unwarranted and groundless attacks on the good name of one of your committed and faithful priests, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer, who has powerfully and consistently raised awareness of the plight of our fellow Palestinian and Israeli brothers and sisters, as have many others. He continues to remind us of our Christian duty, to uphold Human Rights, a vital step if, Israel and Palestine are to take committed steps towards a lasting peace. In his opinion, and I share this with him, that a road map of compassion is sorely needed by both sides to end decade long conflict through the fulcrum of peaceful negotiations.

It is right for democratic and public debate to bring to light and criticize Israel's politics which daily violate the basic rights of all Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. It is equally right to speak of Palestinian breaches of international law.

I have known Stephen for over thirty years. I know him as a man of integrity and forthright views with the courage to express those views. He has always been measured , and his message is, and has been, one of Christian faith and the love of truth. His books and his articles are suffused with objective discipline. There is nothing in them, or him, that could be remotely construed as anti-Jewish, anti-Jew, anti-Semite or even anti-Israel as a state.

Importantly, supporting a Pro-Palestinian right of self-determination and or an independent state in accordance with UN Resolutions must not be viewed as being anti-Jewish. This, his view, is also mine.

I have experienced first-hand Israel's obdurate politics, when I received a four year travel ban when suggesting that cultural exchange, dialogue in music, could be, another approach to peace. There was no charge.. Even when I put to Israel that I be tried in court, there was no charge, because, there was no truth in the allegation that I represented a security risk for advocating peaceful exchange. Eventually the ban was lifted and I continued to spread the message of love and reconciliation at home and abroad.

Therefore, if one speaks out and persistently, it is historically clear, that one will be accused of being anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. Stephen has mentioned this in his writings Zion's Christian Soldiers.

Stephen writes: "fear of being accused of anti-Semitism for challenging the Zionist agenda is enough to keep many evangelicals under their beds. In my view, and that of an increasing number of other evangelicals, it is time to speak out because Christian Zionism has become a formidable and dangerous movement. By portraying the modern state of Israel as God's chosen people on earth, the role of the church has been reduced in the eyes of many to providing biblical justification for Israel's colonization of Palestine. Those who oppose her are demonized."

Further Stephen is compassionately aware of Israel, her citizens and the mandate of the church : "It is not an understatement to say that what is at stake is our understanding of the Gospel, the centrality of the Cross, the role of the Church and the nature of our missionary mandate, not least, to the beloved Jewish people". These are not the words of an anti-Semite but the thoughts of a man with genuine concerns for the Church and the citizens of both Israel and Palestine.

Finally, Stephen is a man to be listened to. He is a man of God, in the footsteps of the old prophets, and should be valued by the Church for he has taken up the missionary mandate of the Church, bringing a rare clarity, sincerity of spirit, and persuasive intellect to what has proven thus far, to be an intractable problem, even for the best intentioned, namely a joyful and long awaited peace between Israel and Palestine.

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: +Riah

Dated: 27 November 2018

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: Robert Cohen

My contact address, including postcode, is:

1 Moons Acre
Bentham
North Yorkshire
LA2 7BL

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

**My telephone number is:

**My e-mail address is: robertahcohen@gmail.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.*

Dear Bishop Tim,

I'm writing to give my support to Revd. Dr. Stephen Sizer following the Complaint of Misconduct brought by Marie van de Zyl of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

I am a British Jew brought up in the Movement for Reform Judaism where I was inspired by Hebrew scripture and my study of Jewish history to value the importance of building a just society and working to 'repair the fractured world' in which we live. I am a trustee of Amos Trust, which has thirty years of experience working in Israel/Palestine. I am married to an Anglican Priest, Revd Anne Russell, a Team Rector in the Leeds Diocese.

For the last seven years I have written and spoken publicly about my criticism of Zionism and the actions of the State of Israel in its treatment of the Palestinian people. I write not from a secular or left wing position but from an understanding of what it should mean to be a Jew in the 21st century in the long shadow of the Holocaust and following the creation of the State of Israel. I take my inspiration from the Hebrew Prophets, from the experience of the Jewish people throughout the Jewish diaspora and from the ethical teachings of Judaism across the centuries.

My journey to Palestinian solidarity has been long and difficult. I chart its beginnings from when I was a student at Manchester University in the late 1980s struggling to understand the out break of the first Palestinian Intifada in the Occupied Territories. My final break with Zionism came when I met Christian clergy in Nazareth in 2011 and realised that the failings of Zionism reached far beyond the post 1967 Occupation. Since then I have discovered the principled tradition of Jewish opposition to Zionism dating back to the 19th century and also experienced first hand the lengths the Board of Deputies will go to to prevent such voices being heard, especially to Anglican audiences.

I believe it's impossible to understand the motivation of the Board, in regard to my own work and Revd. Sizer's, without recognising the Board's strong conviction that Zionism is now integral to Jewish identity and indeed central to the expression of Judaism today. So any criticisms of Zionism, or even particular actions by governments of the State of Israel, are seen as an attack on Jews and Judaism and therefore must be considered expressions of antisemitism.

The Board of Deputies is right to say that the majority of Jews in Britain feel strongly attached to the State of Israel and have a profound concern for its safety and security. I would include myself in this thinking. However, it should be noted that a growing number of Jews, especially a younger generation, are becoming increasingly uneasy and disillusioned about how the Zionist project has played out. This is particularly true in the United States. The Board in the U.K., just like its counterparts in America, is loathe to acknowledge this fracturing of the Jewish consensus on Israel and Zionism.

The Board has adopted a position of uncritical support for Israel to the point where its interfaith and public affairs work can only be understood as part of a wider pro-Israel lobby in the U.K which includes many other U.K. Jewish organisations. I don't see this as in anyway conspiratorial or nefarious. It's how politics works on many issues. However, it means that the Board's allegations against Revd. Sizer should be seen as taking place within a highly political context.

Revd. Sizer, as you know, has become an important and authoritative voice in helping Christians to understand the roots of Christian Zionism, which is quite different to the Jewish idea of Zionism but hugely influential in generating uncritical support for Israel and considerable hostility towards the Palestinian people. Revd. Sizer has been a firm advocate for equality for all who call the Holy Land home. In addition, he has consistently spoken out against antisemitism and against Holocaust denial. However, as a high profile figure, the Board view his writing as a threat to its own ability to influence Christian denominations in their thinking about Israel and Zionism.

Revd. Sizer has already comprehensively refuted past allegations made against him by the Board and the latest allegations are equally spurious and have been equally refuted. I find it very disturbing that the Board is willing to conduct a character assassination of a good man doing good work in the name of justice and inspired by his Christian faith.

I hope that following your review of the evidence you will feel confident in rejecting the complaint of misconduct against Stephen Sizer.

Yours Sincerely

Robert Cohen
Bentham
North Yorkshire

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: Robert Cohen

Dated: 29 November 2018

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 Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: Scott A. Elias……

My contact address, including postcode, is: 9742 Kipling St., Westminster, Colorado 80021 USA……..
……
……
……
……

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

**My telephone number is: (001) 720 2618435

**My e-mail address is: scottelias59@gmail.com……..

**Delete as appropriate. If you tick the box you must give reasons – your contact details would then be disclosed only if the registrar so directed.*

☐ **I request that my contact details should not be disclosed to the *respondent/*complainant for the following reasons:**

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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 am a former Professor of Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London, and member of Christ Church, Virginia Water since 2000. During the last decade I have been both a member of the PCC and PCC secretary at Christ Church. I have come to know the Reverend Dr Stephen Sizer quite well during my time there. I am writing to you to express my support for Stephen, in the face of attacks on his character by Pro-Israel groups. Their accusation that Stephen is anti-Semitic is both spurious and unfounded.

Stephen has worked tirelessly to bring peace and reconciliation between Jews and Palestinians in Israel and Palestine. He believes that the way forward is for Israel to dismantle the walls they have erected to separate themselves from the Palestinians, and for them to give back property they have taken from the Palestinians in recent decades. There are a great many Jews, both in Israel and elsewhere, who believe the same way, and espouse the same cause as Stephen Sizer, yet no one labels them as anti-Semitic.

Over the past twelve years I have held a great many conversations with Stephen concerning the situation in Israel/Palestine. Not once have I heard him voice any anti-Semitic opinions. In fact, quite the opposite is true. He has a real heart for the Jews. He just happens to believe that the only way the Jews can achieve a lasting peace with their neighbours is to dismantle the partitioning of the country, and to give the Palestinians a homeland they can truly call their own. He seeks peace and justice for all peoples of the Holy Land. Could there be a more Christian attitude to take?

.....

.....

(Continue on a separate sheet or sheets if necessary. State here how many additional sheets you are attaching:..... Please number all such additional sheets)

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: 23 November 2018

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: Steven W. Haas

My contact address, including postcode, is: 34834 Weyerhaeuser Way S. Federal Way, WA 98063

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

**My telephone number is: (USA) 253/670-6022

**My e-mail address is: shaas@worldvision.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.*

I have known Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer for the past 12 years. I was introduced initially to him through his writing on Christian Zionism (Sizer, S. (2004) Christian Zionism. Downers Grove, IL: Zondervan). I was attracted to the book by the fact it was published by Zondervan, a respected Christian publisher and had as a leading reference, the renowned British theologian, Dr. John Stott. Rev. Sizer to this day, is known as one of the leading authorities/commentators on the disputed theological construct known as Christian Zionism. In my study of Stephen's book, I was overwhelmed by his depth of Biblical knowledge, insights into Christian orthodoxy/praxis and his complete lack of animus in clearly laying his position as to why an orthodox Christian theology cannot be joined with the political ideology of Zionism, without irreparable damage done to its witness.

Two years later in 2010, I was introduced to Stephen as we were both invited to help organize a conference hosted by Bethlehem Bible College (Christ at the Checkpoint). Throughout the conference organizational process, which amounted to several conference calls and two in-person all day meetings that spanned the course of several days, Stephen remained a thoughtful guide to discussions, seeking justice for all people, both Israeli's and Palestinians as this is the teaching of Scripture.

Further, as a student of history, it was clear that Stephen had done his homework on Israeli history and pre-history and the impact of the holocaust's trauma on its victims. In no way has his teaching served to put in doubt the horrible events of the 1940's, in which over 6 million Jews lost their lives to the Nazi terror. His was and continues to be a clear voice for understanding, truth and peace.

I was so impressed by Stephen's grasp of the theological and political issues that arise from the present conflict involving Israel and the Palestinians, and gracious manner in representing all sides, that I invited him to serve as a trip facilitator for a Middle East Vision Journey that included our President of World Vision US, Rich Stearns and other notable US Christian leaders. All travellers were well served by Stephen's participation and clarity and shared these views in surveys following the trip.

To my knowledge, I have never read or heard anything from Stephen that would qualify as "anti-Semitic" language. On the contrary, one of the reasons Stephen has been so passionate in his writing and speaking on reconciliation/peace has been his love for all peoples, Palestinian and Israeli alike. Stephen has a deep love and affection for the Jewish people, as has been evidenced by the many Jewish friends and ministry associates he has introduced me to and deduced from our ongoing conversations. Negative views that disavows Jewish existence or advocates for their destruction in any way, is antithetical to and deemed incongruent with all that Stephen has taught to others.

I consider Stephen Sizer a dear friend and mentor. A passionate advocate for the veracity of Scripture, justice and peace for all of mankind. I trust those adjudicating these matters will discover the same.

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: Steven W. Haas

Dated: 27 of November, 2018

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: Tanas Alqassis

My contact address, including postcode, is: 12 Kempson Crescent. Oxford OX44QE

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

**My telephone number is: 07804834249

**My e-mail address is: tanas1506@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:

I am writing in connection with the allegations made against the Rev Stephen Sizer. I have known Rev Stephen for many years and admired his courage in standing up for the truth. For me he was the first person to open my eyes on the whole issue of End Time Theology and what the bible says about the promised land.

It is simply untrue that Rev Sizer has ever been anti-Semitic in his speeches or his writing. I fear that he is being falsely accused for telling the truth by the same people who have shown me and my fellow Palestinians such hostility. It seems as everyone knows the truth about what Israel is doing to the Palestinian and about the occupation but not many have the courage to speak about it. Criticizing the evil work of the Israeli government, like the occupation, house demolitions, restriction Palestinian freedom of travel, imprisoning children and others without any cause, is not anti-sematic, it is purely showing the reality of the situation, Please go and visit yourself and you will see that reality.

The Board of Deputies have one goal and one goal only and that is to silence anyone who speaks the truth about the state of Israel. I wish they can see the speck in their own eyes before they talk about the others.

I have talked to Stephen on many occasions and he has a gentle loving heart, he is kind and seeks peace and reconciliation. I hope that you will realize the truth and know that Stephen is not guilty of anything expect telling the truth and reality of the Palestinian people.

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.



Dated: 26/11/2018

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: Professor Peter Timothy Holt Unwin CMG

My contact address, including postcode, is:

1 Hawthorn Cottages, Wellington Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4HU

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

**My telephone number is: 01344 844754

**My e-mail address is: tim.unwin@rhul.ac.uk

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 since 1997, when he became vicar of Christ Church, Virginia Water, and have kept in contact with him since he moved to Southampton in 2017. I have read the latest accusations made against him by Marie van der Zyl on behalf of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, as well as Stephen's detailed and comprehensive responses to them. I am an academic geographer with a long interest in Middle Eastern affairs, international development and philosophy, and am therefore well-placed not only to comment on Stephen as a pastor and friend, but also on the merits of the wider case being made against him.

I have no doubt that the accusations against him are deeply flawed, and are intended to cause malicious harm to him as an individual and to the Church of England more widely. I therefore urge you to rebut them in the strongest possible terms.

Much of the case against Stephen is based on old arguments that were dealt with under the conciliation agreement reached with the Board of Deputies of British Jews in 2013. I wrote at that time in support of Stephen and you will have my comments on record. It is my understanding that a process was agreed at that time for dealing with future disputes, and it would seem that the Board of Deputies of British Jews in bringing these new accusations has failed to abide by that process.

As far as I can make out, there are only two new accusations that therefore warrant any further comment: his definition of anti-Semitism, and concerns over comments alledged to have been made by him in connection with criticism of Jeremy Corbyn. Both of these arguments seem to be tenuous at best. I have read the very detailed arguments that Stephen has written in defence of his position, and they seem to be a fair reflection of the issues.

My previous comments in 2013 have addressed the earlier accusations, and so let me therefore now briefly address four issues related to the two new accusations:

1) *The Board of Deputies of British Jews claims to represent the British Jewish Community*. In my understanding, there are diverse views within the British Jewish community, and the Board of Deputies cannot therefore claim to represent all British Jews. It is important in any decisions that you reach that you recognise this diversity of opinions.
2) *The accusations once again highlight and conflate problems associated with the IHRA definition of antisemitism*. These arise in part because of lack of clarity between the actual IHRA statement and the examples given. As many people have pointed out, the IHRA definition is very problematic, in part because it focuses explicitly on "Jews", but does not specify what is meant by "Jewish community institutions". As Stephen rightly notes, the IHRA definition specifically states that "criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic". Yet, the IHRA illustrations also claim that "manifestations include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity". This deliberate confusion lies at the heart of many of the debates around the meaning of anti- Semitism,

My own view on this is very clear: criticism of the state of Israel is not a form of anti-Semitism, but criticism of Jews, either as individuals or a racial/ethnic group is. Likewise, criticism of the British government is not racist, but criticism of British people as a collective entity is. Stephen is not anti-semitic or racist therefore in the comments he has made about the Israeli government, in the same way that I am not racist in my criticism of the British government. The Board of Deputies of British Jews thus seems to be being disingenuous in claiming that Stephen is being racist. As Stephen rightly points out there are categorical differences between anti-Semitism, criticism of Zionism and criticism of the State of Israel.

3) *Conflation with criticism of Jeremy Corbyn*. The case made against Stephen by the Board of Deputies of British Jews seems to be prejudiced by their concern with trying to show that Jeremy Corbyn is also racist. By criticising Stephen they seem to be seeking to add ammunition to their criticism of Jeremy Corbyn, and appear to want to try to add the weight of the Church of England to their side by making these accusations. I do not have access to the full details of their arguments on this, since I am currently in China and cannot access all of the websites that I would need, but the basis of their argument against Stephen seems tenuous at best.
4) *The use of social media*. As in their previous case, the Board of Deputies of British Jews does not seem to understand the use of social media in encouraging debate. I would note here that the police concluded in respect to their earlier accusations against Stephen that there was no evidence of any criminal conduct on his behalf. The point must be reiterated now that simply reposting something on social media does not mean that one agrees with it. This practice is widely used to encourage intellectual debate. I frequently, for example, repost material with which I disagree, so as to encourage others to discuss it and help me understand better the issues raised. This is especially so when a "?" is used, and I note that Marie can der Zyl seems to have forgotten to include the "?" in her citation of purported evidence

May I also add that I find the tone of words and comments by Marie van der Zyl, such as "ad nauseam", "our community will expect", "promotion of terrorists" etc. to be unhelpful and inflammatory. They do not strengthen her arguments, but seem rather to be designed to be personally hurtful to Stephen.

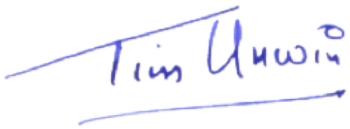
In brief, I know Stephen to be a loving and caring person who remains faithful to the teaching of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. He cares deeply for Jewish people, and while being critical of some actions of the State of Israel and extreme Zionists, he is most definitely *not* a racist.

Rather than permanently banning Stephen as the Board of Deputies of British Jews "expect" you to do, I would hope that you will see through their deeply flawed and malicious arguments, and provide a robust and clearly articulated argument in support of him, both as an individual and as a valued member of the Church of England, so that

the relationships between Christians and Jews in Britain can indeed be strengthened. Based on the comments in the case that Marie van der Zyl seeks to make, it would seem instead to be the actions of the British Board of Deputies that are designed to harm the relationships between Christians and Jews, rather than Stephen's words and deeds.

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: 25th November 2018

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: Tony Gratrex

My contact address, including postcode, is:

38 Pendlebury,
Bracknell
RG12 7RB

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

**My telephone number is: 07917 785201

**My e-mail address is: tonygratrex@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 am a retired aerospace engineer and now live in Bracknell, Berkshire.

In the late 1960's I lived close to Dachau whilst working in Munich. This gave me the opportunity to visit the concentration camp there many times.

Each time I visited the camp I would always ask myself the same question; what were the Christian Church leaders in Germany doing at this time? The answer was, keeping their heads down most of the time.

Then I found out there were some few like Dietrich Bonhoeffer who didn't. In the early 1980s I was living and working in Israel. It was only then that I became aware of the history of what happened to the Palestinians. I left Israel to live and work in several other countries.

When I eventually arrived to live in Bracknell I joined a church. I would ask the Church leadership, especially at Christmas time what they were doing to make the people aware of the situation in present day Bethlehem. They kept their heads down, so I left that church and joined another and the same thing happened.

Then I heard about Stephen Sizer so joined Christ Church, about 6 years ago. I have met Stephen many times on an individual basis and talked a great deal about the Israel/Palestine situation. In all these meetings I can say that he has never said anything that is anti-Semitic.

For me Stephen Sizer is another Dietrich Bonhoeffer, but I pray there will be a better outcome.

Oh! the ironies of history.

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: Tony Gratrex

Dated: 27 November 2018

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: Tony Greenstein

My contact address, including postcode, is:
PO Box 173
Brighton
BN51 9EZ

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

**My telephone number is: 01273 965704

**My e-mail address is: tonygreenstein111@gmail.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.*

Please see attached

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: 25th November 2018

Statement by Tony Greenstein in support of Rev. Stephen Sizer

1. I wish to confirm that I stand by my previous statement of 24th January 2013 supporting the Rev. Stephen Sizer.

2. I have been an anti-racist and anti-fascist activist for most of my life and I am the author of the history of fighting fascism in Brighton and on the South Coast. See here for a review.

3. I understand that a complaint has been made by Marie van der Zvl, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, alleging that the Rev. Sizer is anti-Semitic. Most of the allegations in her statement, which I have seen are typical of the classic guilt-by-association of the McCarthyite era. It is noticeable that they do not evidence anything that has actually been said by Rev. Sizer himself.

4. The Board of Deputies claims to represent all British Jews however that is not true. It represents the Jewish establishment in this country and in particular those who support the Israeli state. It is an overtly Zionist organisation and it refuses to allow representation to anti-Zionist and non-Zionist Jews. For example it has refused to allow the non-Zionist Jews for Justice for Palestinians to affiliate to it.

5. The Board does **not** represent secular or progressive Jewry in this country and it is widely seen as a right-wing group, an integral member of the pro-Israel lobby.

6. It does **not** even represent Orthodox Jewry in this country as evidenced by the letter from 29 Orthodox Rabbis criticising the Board of Deputies for its attacks on Jeremy Corbyn. The letter expressed *'shock'* at claims that Jews are considering leaving Britain because of the possibility of Jeremy Corbyn becoming Prime Minister.

7. According to an unpublished letter sent to the Jewish Chronicle by Shraga Stern, a Charedi (Orthodox) activist, '*The Board of Deputies and JLC do not represent Charedi Jews, who do not have voting rights at BoD elections and number today over fifty thousand in the UK, of which 30,000 live in Stamford Hill.'*

8. 70% of American Jews opposed the election of Donald Trump who is widely seen as anti-Semitic. [See Anti-Semitism is no longer an undertone of Trump's campaign. It's the melody, Washington Post, 7.11.16]. Most British Jews were horrified at the election of this bigot but not the Board of Deputies. Its then President, Jonathan Arkush sent Trump a message congratulating him.

9. The Board of Deputies does not represent the 41% of British Jews who, according to the survey The Attitudes of British Jews to Israel conducted by

City University in 2015, do not consider themselves Zionists, i.e. Jewish Nationalists or Jewish Supremacists. The BOD certainly does not represent the 24% of British Jews willing to contemplate sanctions against Israel and it doesn't represent the most liberal and anti-racist Jews in this country. Marie van der Zyl's complaint should be seen for what it is, a partisan political attack on the Rev. Sizer because of his support of the Palestinians.

10. In response to the murder of over 200 unarmed demonstrators at the fence (**not** border) between Gaza and Israel, the Board of Deputies under Marie van der Zyl justified what had happened by saying that "'*No state could allow its borders to be breached by those who openly wish harm to its civilians. Israel is defending its people from repeated violent attempts at mass invasion.'* This was met with a petition by hundreds of Jews who were outraged at this attempt to blame the victims of murder for their own deaths.

11. Those who were demonstrating, **inside** Gaza, were demonstrating against Israel's siege, the polluted water caused by Israel's theft of Gaza's water, its refusal to allow refugees from Israel to return, the repeated murder of Gaza's fishermen by Israel's navy and the control of Gaza by Israel such that nothing can go in and out, for example medical supplies without Israel's say so.

    Even Lord Michael Howard, the Jewish former leader of the Conservative Party, who is no liberal, confronted Benjamin Netanyahu on his visit to Britain with the simple question, *'Why did you have to kill them'.* The Guardian report Michael Howard confronts Netanyahu over Gaza deaths was sub-titled '*Tory peer subjects Israeli PM to sharp, unexpected questioning over killing of protesters'.*

    In its statement the Board went on to say *'The responsibility for the violence lies with Hamas.'* But it wasn't Hamas who murdered over 200 people and injured thousands, with expanding bullets designed to cripple its victims. The BOD are apologists for mass murder and war crimes and this is who is making the complaint against Rev Sizer.

12. When the Board of Deputies makes a complaint where Israel is the subject what they say should be taken with a handful of salt. Traditionally the Church of England has felt that they have to bow to whatever complaints the Board of Deputies make because otherwise they will be accused of *'anti-Semitism'* but it is high time that you stood up to this blackmail. Those of us who are anti-Zionist Jews have learnt to withstand Zionist vitriol (self hater, traitor etc.) Under the rubric of 'inter-faith relations' the Palestinians have been betrayed for far too long by the Church of England.

13. You cannot understand the complaint being made against Rev. Stephen Sizer unless you understand that when it comes to Israel no trust can be put in what the BOD says. They are a right-wing Zionist organisation which has amongst its ranks a number of extremely vicious Islamaphobes including supporters of Tommy Robinson. One of its deputies, Roslyn , who was suspended for 6 years for calling Muslims *"the vilest of animals*" and Arab migrants "*an invading army".* is about to reinstated as a Deputy for Finchley United Synagogue. Board's own panel criticises 'Islamophobic' deputy's suspension.

14. The Board of Deputies has even lobbied the Synod to oppose the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). A very dear friend of mine and a member of the Synod, the late Roger Farnworth, went out to Palestine to take part in this programme. The purpose of EAPPI is to accompany Palestinians when they go about their business in order to deter violent settler attacks on them. What possible reason could the BOD have to oppose this programme? The only conclusion is that they support the reign of terror that Palestinian farmers experience.

15. BOD Treasurer Laurence Brass went out to the West Bank and witnessed such things as settlers dumping a car in a Palestinian well making the water undrinkable. In 2015 Mr Brass resigned because he *"could not contemplate another three years of not being able to speak freely".*

16. Mr Brass described how he took part in a one-day trip led by a guide from the anti-occupation Israeli army veterans' group, Breaking the Silence. Board of Deputies treasurer 'shocked' by visit to West Bank

> "The village spokesman told us that he was very worried at the prospect of local Palestinian children being attacked by settlers on their way to school.
> "Just 48 hours after we left, a six-year-old girl from the neighbouring village of Atuwani was admitted to hospital with head wounds after being stoned on her way to school, just as we had been warned might occur.
> "I was shocked that this type of behaviour goes unchecked by the IDF."

17. Mr Brass had to resign as Treasurer of the BOD because he was not allowed to speak out and remain an officer. It is this which Ms Zyl is defending. If you have any integrity she will be sent away with a flea in her ear.

18. When reporting on what he had seen back in Britain, Mr Brass said that he had encountered "*very harsh and often quite abusive personal criticism*" when speaking out. This is what the Zionist zealots who run the Board of Deputies do to anyone who speaks out, even liberal Zionists. The Rev. Sizer is simply one in a long list of victims. It would be a disgrace if the Church of England, instead of bearing witness to what is happening, were to go along with the Board of Deputies complaint for the sake of political convenience. That is precisely what the Protestant Church, including the Confessing Church did in

Nazi Germany when it failed to speak out against the treatment of the Jews. In the words of Primo Levy, the Italian Jewish survivor of Auschwitz, declared that "*Today, the Palestinians are the Jews of the Israelis*.".

Marie van der Zyl's Complaint

19. Ms Zyl's complaint is worthless and worse, dishonest. It speaks of *'Stephen Sizer's history of antisemitism'.* There is no such history.

20. The Board of Deputies unfortunately does have a history of making false accusations of anti-Semitism. Jonathan Arkush, the BOD's previous President said that Jeremy Corbyn's *'unquestionably anti-Semitic views' make Jews question their future'.* Ms Zyle, who was a Vice-President at the time, did not dissent from this statement. Indeed Arkush went further and, in a statement on behalf of the Board, described the Jewish dissident group Jewdas as '*a source of virulent anti-Semitism'*.

21. The BOD attacks any perceived critics of Israel as 'anti-Semitic'. In doing so it drains the term anti-Semitism of all meaning. As Dr Brian Klug, an expert in anti-Semitism from Oxford University stated: *'when anti-Semitism is everywhere, it is nowhere. And when every anti-Zionist is an anti-Semite, we no longer know how to recognize the real thing – the concept of anti-Semitism loses its significance'* . [Tony Lerman, ***Labour should ditch the IHRA working definition of antisemitism altogether***]

22. The Church of England should take this opportunity to tell Ms Zyl that precisely because you take anti-Semitism seriously you are not going to entertain the accusations made against the Rev Sizer. False accusations of anti-Semitism let the real Jew haters go free. When you cry wolf repeatedly people can no longer recognise the real wolf.

23. Among the absurd 'proofs' that Ms Zyl offers for Rev Sizer's 'anti-Semitism' is that he participated in an Islamic Human Rights Commission conference entitled "*Towards a New Liberation Theology,"* speaking on a panel about "*The right to resist*" alongside Hezbollah representative Rima Fakhry. I fail to understand why this is proof of anti-Semitism. Even were Mr Fakhry anti-Semitic and no proof has been offered of this. this is merely a McCarthyist guilt-by-association technique.

24. Israel hates Hezbollah because it was the one Arab force that defeated it. In 2000 Israel withdrew from Lebanon because Hezbollah had made the cost of staying too high. In 2006 Israel tried to invade and were repulsed. Hezbollah had an inherent right to defend their country. Israel had no right to occupy

Lebanese soil after their murderous invasion of 1982 which killed over 20,000 people including the slaughter of over 2,000 refugees, mainly women and children, at the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps by Israel's fascist Phalangist allies.

25. Hezbollah, who are part of the government of Lebanon, are a legitimate resistance group. The label 'terrorist' is one of political convenience.

Raed Salah

26. Ms Zyle says that Raed Saleh, a Palestinian Israeli is *'known for spreading the blood libel claim agarnst Jews and otherwise inciting antisemitism.'* This is an absolute lie. Raed Saleh has always denied this accusation and it is interesting that he was acquitted of this charge by the Jerusalem Magistrates Court and only convicted of racial incitement by the higher Jerusalem District Court. This was clearly a political decision.

27. Raed Saleh came to this country despite having been banned by Theresa May in 2011. He was accused of having written an anti-Semitic poem which the Jerusalem Post published. The Upper Immigration Tribunal released him from prison because the poem had been doctored with the words '*you Jews'* added. Ms Zyl is deliberately repeating material that the British courts found untrue.

28. I suggest that those dealing with this complaint read David Hearst's article in the Guardian Theresa May's haste to ban Raed Salah will be repented at leisure. Hearst described how:

> Mr Justice Ockelton said May was misled and "*under a misapprehension as to the facts*". Calling the case against Salah "*very weak*", Ockleton said the matters raised by the home secretary were not a fair portrayal of Salah's views or words as a whole; that those views caused no difficulty at the time or since, and that there was no evidence that the danger perceived by the home secretary was shared by any of the other countries Salah visited, least of all by Israel, whose citizen he is and who only took out an indictment against him on these grounds after May's deportation order in June.

29. All Marie van der Zyl has done in her submission to you is repeat the very lies that Theresa May used to lock up Raed Saleh and which were overturned by the Upper Immigration Tribunal. For the Church of England to uphold her complaint on the basis of proven lies would be a miscarriage of justice. Raed Saleh is a religious leader and a leader of the Palestinian population in Israel. He led the protests against the repeated settler invasions of the Mosque of Omar and Al Aqsa in Jerusalem and the Israeli authorities attempts to curtail Palestinian use of them. In the end Raed Salah and the Palestinians won this particular battle against the encroachment upon Muslim holy places but Raed

Saleh himself was imprisoned by Israel's colonial court on bogus charges for 9 months.

30. I suggest that when considering Marie van der Zyl's lies about Raed Saleh, you first read Raed Saleh's own account in the Guardian Britain's duty to the Palestinian people.

31. On the specific blood libel accusation there was a further discussion in the Guardian with their Reader's Editor Becky Gardiner. Unfortunately the reply of Raed Saleh was deleted by the moderators. Ms Gardiner asked:

'Are you guilty of inciting anti-semitism or not? Because the judge in your deportation case said you are'
I have read the judgement. On the blood libel point it is complex, so bear with me.
First the judge notes the context: the sermon was given on a somewhat turbulent day when [Salah] had been refused permission to pray at one of the holy sites of his religion
Having been barred from entering the al-Aqsa mosque, Salah gave a speech, or sermon, in the street outside. In it he said:
We have never allowed ourselves to knead the bread for the breaking fo fasting during the blessed month of Ramadan with the blood of the children. And if someone wants a wider explanation, then he should ask what used to happen to some of the children of Europe, when their blood used to be mixed in the dough of the holy bread.
Unlike the version relied on by the home secretary, the speech did not contain a reference to "*Jewish holy bread*". Salah denies that he was referring to the blood libel; in Salah's article he did originally have this paragraph explaining this passage, which I cut:
I don't believe in the "blood libel" against Jews and I reject it in its entirety. What I was really referring to in my sermon was the killing of innocents in the name of religion, including children, from the time of the Inquisition to as recently as Bosnia and elsewhere in Europe whose governments support Israel's action.
The judge did not accept Salah's explanation, saying he found it "*wholly unpersuasive*". He said the speech "*would offend and distress*" Jews. However, he also noted that the sermon as a whole "*was against the actions of the state of Israel*" rather than Jews as such.
To conclude, the judge said that:
"...there is no reliable evidence of [Salah] using words carrying a reference to the blood libel save in the single passage in a sermon delivered five years ago. ... The absence of other evidence is striking ... [Salah] is a prominent public figure and a prolific speaker. ... his speeches are of interest to the authorties in Israel. ... We think it can be fairly said that the evidence before us is not a sample, or 'the tip of the iceberg': it is simply all the evidence there is."
And later:
"the matters raised by the Secretary of State are not a fair portrayal of [Salah's] views or words as a whole; they are in essence confined to words on one day, that are not shown to have caused any difficulty at the time or since. There is no evidence that the danger percieved by [Theresa May] is perceived by any of the other countries where [Salah] has been, nor, save for the very tardy indictment, is there any evidence that even Israel sees the danger [she] sees."

The IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism

32. Ms Van der Zyl accuses Stephen Sizer of 'anti-Semitism', however she is careful not to say what criteria she is using when making this accusation. It can

be assumed, however, that she is not using **the definition of anti-Semitism which can be found in the** Oxford English dictionary which **consists of just 6 words, as opposed to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition which is more than 500 words. According to the OED anti-Semitism is '***Hostility to or prejudice against Jews'.*

33. I don't think anyone could seriously accuse Stephen Sizer of harbouring hatred, hostility or prejudice against Jews. **Since the BOD** waged a war **recently against Jeremy Corbyn because the Labour Party hadn't adopted the IHRA definition *in toto* one can assume that when Ms Zyl says *'anti-Semitism'* she really means '*anti-Zionism'*.** The reason that the IHRA definition is 500+ words is that that is the number of words necessary to conflate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism.

34. The IHRA has been savaged by academics and legal scholars alike. The obvious question is why is there a need to define anti-Semitism? Anti-Semitism is obvious. Ask the man or woman on the Clapham Omnibus, the mythical reasonable person and they will say *'Anti-Semitism is someone who doesn't like Jews.'*

35. If you want a more sophisticated definition of anti-Semitism then there is that of Dr Brian Klug. In his 2013 lecture to the Jewish Museum in Berlin '***What Do We Mean When We Say 'Antisemitsm'? Echoes of shattering glass'*** given on the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Klug suggested the following definition:

> 'antisemitism is a form of hostility to Jews as Jews, where Jews are perceived as something other than what they are' or more succinctly 'hostility to Jews as not Jews' because the Jew that anti-Semites hate is not a real person but a mythical creature.

36. Critics of the IHRA include **Professor David Feldman**, who was Vice-Chair of the Chakrabarti Inquiry and is Director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism. Feldman described the definition as 'bewilderingly imprecise.'

37. **Sir Stephen Sedley** was a Judge in the Court of Appeal who is also Jewish. In Defining Anti-Semitism he wrote that the IHRA *'fails the first test of any definition: it is indefinite.* In what is the most concise critique of the IHRA, Sedley wrote that:

> the IHRA definition offers encouragement to pro-Israel militants whose targets for abuse and disruption in London have recently included the leading American scholar and critic of Israel Richard Falk, and discouragement to university authorities which do not want to act as censors but worry that the IHRA definition requires them to do so.

38. Sedley described the problem of the IHRA was that it only allowed

> 'such criticism as can be made of other states, placing the historical, political, military and humanitarian uniqueness of Israel's occupation and colonisation of Palestine beyond permissible criticism.'

39. **Hugh Tomlinson QC** in an Opinion declared, as did all other lawyers, that the IHRA had

> 'a potential chilling effect on public bodies which, in the absence of definitional clarity, may seek to sanction or prohibit any conduct which has been labelled by third parties as antisemitic without applying any clear criterion of assessment.'

This is essentially what Ms Zyl is attempting. To chill Stephen Sizer's right to free speech.

40. **Geoffrey Robertson QC,** a renowned human rights lawyer described the IHRA as

> 'likely to chill criticism of action by the Government of Israel and advocacy of sanctions as a means to deter human rights abuses in Gaza and elsewhere.'

41. Tomlinson also found that when it comes to **genuine** anti-Semitism, the IHRA is weak.

> 'By pivoting upon racial hatred ... it fails to catch those who exhibit hostility and prejudice – or apply discrimination – against Jewish people for no reason other than that they are Jewish.'

42. Even the principal author of the IHRA, Kenneth Stern, acknowledged that the IHRA was being used in ways that were never intended. In testimony to the House of Representatives in November 2017, he warned that:

> The definition was not drafted, and was never intended, as a tool to target or chill speech on a college campus. In fact, at a conference in 2010 about the impact of the definition, I highlighted this misuse, and the damage it could do.

43. Stern spoke about how the IHRA was '*was being employed in an attempt to restrict academic freedom and punish political speech'*.

44. Stern described how the IHRA had been used to curtail free speech in Britain, listing the "Israel Apartheid Week" event which was cancelled by Central Lancashire University and the case of the Holocaust survivor who was required to change the title of a campus talk by Manchester university *after an Israeli diplomat complained that the title violated the definition.'* Stern described as '*Perhaps most egregious'* of all the call on a university to conduct an inquiry into Professor Rebecca Gould for 'antisemitism', based on an article she had written years before. Accurately describing what had happened as *'chilling and McCarthy -like.'* Professor Gould's description of what happened is on Open Democracy.

Jenny Tonge and Jews Being Responsible for the Holocaust

45. Normally one tries not to accuse one's opponent of bad faith or dishonesty. However in Ms Zyl's case I will make an exception. In her complaint she refers to a meeting at the House of Lords in October 2016 where she says that:

> Sizer breached the terms the agreement by attending and publishing a social media post about a particularly inflammatory event with Jenny Tonge in the chair. ... By attending an event where the audience was alleged to have applauded the suggestion that Jews were responsible for the Holocaust, Sizer earned a stinging public rebuke from his Bishop in the Diocese of Guildford.

46. If indeed the Rev. Sizer did earn a '*stinging rebuke'* from the Bishop of Guilford then it was most undeserved. Stephen Sizer does not have the gift of foresight and cannot be blamed for the contribution of a member of the audience. However the allegation that someone suggested *'that Jews were responsible for the Holocaust'* is a lie. Either Ms Zyl is completely ignorant of the timeline of this meeting and the subsequent Inquiry or she is simply happy to recycle fake news as fact.

47. Yes an allegation was made that a Rabbi from the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta sect had made such a suggestion. An Inquiry was held by Lucy Scott-Moncrieff, CBE, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Iin Annex 2 of her Report, **The Conduct of Baroness Tonge** she rejected this accusation (paras 35/36 find that:

> 35. The allegation that Jews caused the Holocaust is an example of Holocaust revisionism and clearly fits within the official definition of antisemitism.
>
> 36. However, this is not what audience member 11 actually said. He referred to an economic boycott led by Rabbi Wise, but he did not say that the boycott was by Jews or Zionists.

48. However Ms Lucy Scott-Moncrief is wrong. Even if the Rabbi had said that the Jews were responsible for or caused the Holocaust that would not have been anti-Semitic. The allegation that the Jews brought the Holocaust upon themselves is a very common one amongst the Jewish Orthodox. Possibly up to half of Jewish Orthodoxy holds that the Holocaust was a consequence of the Jews' own actions. If you believe that God is responsible for everything that happens in the world then this applies to the Holocaust too. The traditional explanation is that God is punishing the Children of Israel for their sins.

49. For example the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, the late Ovadia Yosef:

> The six million Holocaust victims were reincarnations of the souls of sinners, people who transgressed and did all sorts of things which should not be done. They had been reincarnated in order to atone. Holocaust victims reincarnated 'sinners'?, Jewish Telegraph Agency, 8.8.2000.

Sephardic Jews are the majority of Jews in Israel. Ovadia Yosef was the spiritual mentor of Shas, who have 7 seats in the Knesset and are part of Israel's governing coalition.

The leader of the Satmar Chasidim, one of the largest Chasidic groups in the world, Rabbi Joel Teitelbaum wrote similarly. Holocaust theology, see also God Sent The Holocaust, Says A Rabbi Reviled — And Adored, The Forward, 23rd July 2017.

50. The debate on whether God was responsible for the Holocaust and whether it is divine punishment for the sins of Jews is part of an ongoing theological debate. Lecture #05a: The Holocaust as a Divine Punishment Part 1, Rav Tamir Granot. The question of whether the Holocaust was divine retribution for Jewish sins has been a recurrent topic of discussion amongst Orthodox Jewry. Is it anti-Semitic? I doubt it. Repugnant yes, but then much of religion is repugnant too!

51. I don't wish to comment on Ms Van der Zyl's allegations re links with holocaust deniers such as a Mr Tobin or Michael Hoffman other than to say that if the quality of evidence is anything like that with Raed Saleh then it should be discounted. Likewise many people link, unknowingly to sites, which later turn out to be anti-Semitic. The question is whether they endorse such views or not.

52. Quite laughably, one of Ms Zyl's accusations is that Rev Sizer, gave an interview to Australian radio '*claiming that Zionists have "diluted the definition of anti-Semitism to include criticism of Israel".* One wonders where Rev Sizer got that idea from!! Perhaps Ms Zyl can name one, just one, Palestine solidarity activist in Britain who has not been accused of anti-Semitism. The examples I have given above, of Jeremy Corbyn and others, proves that false accusations of anti-Semitism against anti-Zionists are the norm.

53. I understand that Rev. Sizer denies believing that Israel was in part responsible for 9/11. However even were it true then it would not be anti-Semitic. Israel is not the Jews or Jewish people. It is a state that calls itself Jewish, in so far as it is a state that defines itself as Jewish racially. It is not anti-Semitic to make accusations, even wrong accusations, against Israel.

54. Ms Zyl's complaint against the Rev. Sizer is tendentious. The Rev. Sizer is not anti-Semitic and the accusation that he is are malicious and unfounded. I hope that the Church of England puts an end to the persecution of Stephen Sizer and lays the ghost of false accusations of anti-Semitism against him to rest.

Tony Greenstein

25 November 2018