

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

<i>Box for use only by the Registrar of Tribunals</i>	<i>Statement submitted by: Name of maker of statement: Date of statement:</i>
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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: **Revd Philip Hill**

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

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