

## Clergy Discipline Measure 2003

### In the Clergy Discipline Tribunal – Diocese of Winchester

Re the Reverend Dr Stephen Robert Sizer

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF  
PROFESSOR MARY GREY

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I, **MARY GREY**, of West Mill, Fullerton Road, Wherwell, Hampshire, SP11 7JS, **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I make this statement on behalf of the Reverend Dr Stephen Sizer ("**Stephen**") in support of his Answer to a Complaint made against him by the Board of Deputies of British Jews ("**the Board of Deputies**").

#### Biography

2. I am an ecofeminist liberation theologian. I am currently professorial research fellow at St Mary's University College, Twickenham, London. Until recently I was the D.I. James Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Wales, Lampeter and before that (1993-1997) Professor of Contemporary Theology at the University of Southampton, based at La Sainte Union. Previous to that I was Professor of Feminism and Christianity at the Catholic University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands.
3. My writing includes: *Introducing Feminist Images of God*, (London: Continuum 2001); *Sacred Longings: Ecofeminist Theology and Globalisation*, (London: SCM 2003, Fortress 2004); *The Unheard Scream – the Struggles of Dalit Women in India*, (New Delhi 2004); *Pursuing the Dream – a Jewish- Christian Conversation*, with Rabbi Dan Cohn Sherbok, (Darton, Longman and Todd 2005). For 10 years I was editor of the *Journal Ecotheology*.

## **The Council of Christians and Jews**

4. For many years I belonged to the Council of Christians and Jews ("CCJ"), a nationwide form for Christian-Jewish engagement, and also the International Council of Christians and Jews ("ICCJ"), its international parent. I was a member of the ICCJ Theology committee and went to some of their conferences. Over time I came to realise that, whereas I still belong to CCJ, I could not stand aside from Palestinian suffering, as CCJ seems able to do.

## **Friends of Sabeel UK**

5. The realisation that I could not stand aside from Palestinian suffering led me to become a patron of Friends of Sabeel UK ("Sabeel UK"), and this is how I met Stephen. Stephen has served as a trustee, director and committee member of Sabeel UK.
6. Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre ("Sabeel") is an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement among Palestinian Christians. Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, this liberation theology seeks to deepen the faith of Palestinian Christians, to promote unity among them and to lead them to act for justice and peace. Sabeel's mission is to strive towards theological liberation through instilling the Christian faith in the daily lives of those who suffer under occupation, violence, injustice and discrimination.
7. Sabeel has friends' organisations in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America many of which are populated by Anglican clergy and laity. Patrons include Anglican bishops, Archbishop Peter Carnley, Bishop Roger Herft, Bishop John Noble, Bishop George Browning and Bishop John Baycroft.
8. I have worked with Sabeel for over 10 years and have never heard an anti-Semitic remark uttered in a Sabeel context: 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.

9. In criticising the Israeli occupation of the West Bank as unjust, as I do, I am constantly exposed to being called anti-Semitic. Stephen runs the same danger.

### Stephen and anti-Semitism

10. At all the meetings I have attended where Stephen has been present or giving a lecture, I have never heard an anti-Judaistic or anti-Semitic statement made. That is not to say that he does not pull his punches. I have heard him criticise violence committed by Palestinians and Israeli's alike.
11. As with all of us who work for peace, Stephen 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.
12. I would like to tell you about Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun, a reform Jewish Journal, who lives in San Francisco. Like Stephen, he takes a strong stance against the Israeli occupation and pays the price that his house is frequently vandalised. Stephen's case is similar. For years he has been harassed because of his cries for reconciliation, peace and justice. There are many people who cannot visualise the case on both sides of the divide.

### Statement of truth

13. I believe the facts and matters in this statement to be true.

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MARY GREY

Date:

21.10.20

*Mary Grey*

